GEMSTONE PUBLISHING

JULY
No. 694

WALT DISNEY'S COMICS

$7.99

cat bat

+ =

teacher

I am a dunce
I am a dunce
I am a dunce
I am a dunce

DUNCE

me too
me too
me too
me too
me too

WALT DISNEY'S COMICS

LOST AND CLOWNED *starring Donald Duck*
Story, Art & Lettering: William Van Horn • **Color:** Egmont

FAME *starring Mickey Mouse*
Story & Art: Noel Van Horn • **Color:** Egmont • **Lettering:** Susan Kolberg

A NICHE IN CRIME *starring Huey, Dewey and Louie*
Story: Lars Jensen & Chris Spencer • **Art:** Vicar
Color: Egmont • **Dialogue & Lettering:** David Gerstein

TOO MANY COOKS *starring Minnie Mouse*
Story & Art: Floyd Gottfredson • **Color:** Egmont

BLACKBOARD BUNGLE *starring Fethry Duck*
Story: Dick Kinney • **Art:** Al Hubbard (Italian *Topolino* 461, September 1964))
Color: Rick Keene • **Lettering:** Travis Seitler

TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE *starring Super Goof*
Story: Donald D. Markstein • **Art:** Xavi Vives Mateu
Color: Egmont • **Lettering:** Travis Seitler

PLAYING HOOKEY *starring Donald Duck*
Story & Art: Carl Barks (*WDC&S* 72, September 1946) • **Color:** Susan Daigle-Leach

Front cover art by Walt Kelly, color by David Gerstein

A Word From The Editor

Astute readers will notice that the contents and cover of this issue do not match up with the contents that were announced in the previous issue. Astute readers have no doubt already noticed that Gemstone's publishing schedule—due to a host of internal and external influences—has gone somewhat awry this year. And those two observations are related.

I'm happy to report that we are currently on track with an accelerated publishing plan that should get us back to our standard monthly status before the end of 2008. But this also means that some of our seasonal material will be out of synch with the month unless we do something, so we have chosen to hold the original contents and covers for *Uncle Scrooge* 379 and 380 and *Walt Disney's Comics and Stories* 694 and 695 until next year and to place *US* 381 and 382 and *WDC&S* 696 and 697 in their place, and so on. We trust this lends to a more pleasant reading experience for everyone. At right are images of next month's covers (really).

— *John Clark*

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WALT DISNEY'S DONALD DUCK

• LOST AND CLOWNED •

DONALD HAS A NEW BUSINESS! IT'S CALLED "FINDERS", AND HE'S BEEN DOING QUITE WELL AT IT!

MONDAY -

IT'S A WONDERFUL OLD RING, MISTER DUCK! A FAMILY HEIRLOOM, AND A VERY **VALUABLE** ONE AT THAT!

D 2007-074

I SEE! WHEN DID YOU FIRST NOTICE IT WAS MISSING, MRS. FIDDLEWHIP?

WELL, I KNOW IT SOUNDS SILLY, BUT IT WAS AFTER I WAS PRETENDING TO LEAD THE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA I WAS LISTENING TO! TEE HEE!

AH, SO YOU WERE WAVING YOUR ARMS AROUND... HMM! YES, OF COURSE! MAY I USE THIS CHAIR?

JUST AS I THOUGHT! HERE IT IS, MRS. FIDDLEWHIP! SAFE AND SOUND!

OH, YOU **ARE** A GENIUS, MISTER DUCK! YOU'VE EARNED YOUR FEE AND THEN SOME!

THANK YOU, MA'AM! REMEMBER MY MOTTO! IF YOU'RE A **LOSER** I'M A **FINDER**!

HOW DREADFULLY CLEVER!

TUESDAY-

OH, MISTER DUCK, HOWEVER DID YOU THINK OF LOOKING FOR DEAR LITTLE KELMO IN THE CLOTHES HAMPER?

I LEAVE NO TOWEL OR DIRTY SOCK UNTURNED, MRS. CONK!

HOW POSITIVELY **BRILLIANT**!

SOON-

WELL, SO FAR THIS WEEK I'VE FOUND FOUR CATS, TWO DOGS, SIX RINGS AND AN ANTIQUE EGG BEATER! DUMB STUFF!

·FINDERS·

IF YOU'RE A LOSER - I'M A FINDER!

WITH MY TALENT I OUGHT TO HAVE AN ASSIGNMENT THAT REPRESENTS A BIGGER CHALLENGE . . .

. . . NOT TO MENTION **BIGGER BUCKS**!

WEDNESDAY-

NO CALLS SO FAR THIS MORNING! LET'S SEE WHAT'S ON THE RADIO!

ATTENTION ALL CITIZENS! BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR NAILS NORTON, BANK ROBBER AND **MASTER OF DISGUISE**!

HE'S LOOSE IN THE CITY AND THERE'S A $5000 REWARD TO ANYONE WHO CAN FIND HIM AND BRING HIM TO JUSTICE!

OBOY!

THIS IS IT! THE BIG CHALLENGE! IF ANYONE CAN FIND THAT BOZO, IT'S ME! FIVE THOUSAND, HERE I COME!

I WONDER WHAT THAT WAS ALL ABOUT?

I DON'T KNOW, BUT UNCA DONALD TOOK OFF OUT OF HERE LIKE HIS SOUTH FORTY WAS ON FIRE!

AND HE LEFT THE RADIO ON!

... AND THAT, FOLKS, WAS NOSTALGIA RADIO'S LATEST REPLAY! A CHILLING 1947 EPISODE OF **CRIME IS CRUMMY**, STARRING PUCE BELVEDERE AS INSPECTOR-

I GUESS UNCA DONALD GOT A CALL ABOUT A REALLY BIG JOB!

CLICK

A MASTER OF DISGUISE, EH? WELL, WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT! I CAN SPOT A PHONY TEN MILES AWAY!

FINDERS

THE HUNT BEGINS!

SO FAR **ZIP**! DOGGONE IT, THERE MUST BE SOMEBODY AROUND HERE THAT LOOKS SUSPICIOUS!

MAYBE IT'S — WHOOPS! HOLD THE PHONE! HERE COMES A PRIME SUSPECT IF EVER I SAW ONE!

AND WHAT DO YOU KNOW! NAILS NORTON IS JUST A **SQUIRT!**

SHOES

OKAY, NORTON! **THE JIG'S UP!** I'VE GOTCHA NOW!

YOU'RE GONNA - **YOICKS!**

THUD

DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY! HE'S **NAILS NORTON!**

DON'T BE SILLY, FELLA!

THAT'S DWAYNE BOING, THE FAMOUS HIGH-SOCIETY MIDGET JU-JITSU ARTIST! DON'T YOU READ THE PAPERS?

AND SO -

NUTS! OH, WELL, NO ONE SAID THIS CHALLENGE WOULD BE EASY! I SUPPOSE THE NEXT.....

HMM! I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST NAILS NORTON TO IMPERSONATE AN **OLD LADY!**

VERY CLEVER! I'LL BET THAT BAG IS CHOCK FULL OF BANK LOOT, TOO!

HE'S TURNING INTO THAT ALLEY! WHAT COULD BE MORE SUSPICIOUS THAN THAT?

OKAY, NAILS, YOUR TOO CLEVER DISGUISE DOESN'T FOOL THE FINDER! **SURRENDER THAT BAG!**

YOU HEARD ME **LET ME HAVE IT!**

IF YOU SAY SO, SWEETY!

SPLOP

HOW THE DICKENS WAS I TO KNOW SHE WAS JUST EMPTYING THE GARBAGE?

UG! FISH!

MAYBE I'M APPROACHING THIS FROM THE WRONG ANGLE! MAYBE NORTON APPEARS TO BE SOMEONE NO ONE WOULD NOTICE, LET ALONE LOOK AT TWICE!

IS THERE ANYONE IN SIGHT I WOULDN'T LOOK AT TWICE? PRESENT COMPANY EXCEPTED, OF COURSE!

A GUY SELLING BALLOONS? SURE. EACH BALLOON **COULD** BE FULL OF STOLEN MONEY! NAH! TOO OBVIOUS!

STILL THOUGH, IT WOULDN'T HURT TO **ASK!** PARDON ME, SIR!

YEAH?

FLORIST

BALLOONS

ARE YOU BY ANY CHANCE THE FAMOUS BANK ROBBER NAILS NORTON?

NO, I'M MADAM BUTTERFLY, UNLESS I'M JULIUS CAESAR, BUT THAT'S ONLY ON **MONDAYS!**

BALLOONS

WISE GUY! NOWADAYS EVERYBODY'S A COMEDIAN!

HOURS PASS AND DONALD HAS HAD NO LUCK AT ALL IN HIS QUEST!

IS THERE A SINGLE COTTON-PICKING UNNOTICABLE PERSON IN TOWN THAT I **HAVEN'T** SEEN?

WAIT! LOOK AT THIS GUY! IF HE ISN'T THE VERY ANTITHESIS OF NAILS NORTON, I DON'T KNOW WHO IS!

OKAY, NAILS! YOU'VE BEEN FOUND, SO DON'T TRY TO **DENY** IT!

I BEG YOUR PARDON?

VERY CUTE! BUT THE MOUSEY ACT WITH THE HALF-PINT POOCH DOESN'T FOOL ME!

DILBERT, DID YOU HEAR WHAT THIS HOOLIGAN SAID ABOUT YOU?

GRRR

ROWF YAP YAP YAP ROWR

PERHAPS NEXT TIME, YOUNG MAN, YOU'LL KEEP A CIVIL TONGUE IN YOUR HEAD!

MORE HOURS PASS-

HE MUST BE HIDING! BUT WHERE?

HMM . . . IF I WERE NAILS NORTON, WHERE WOULD I HIDE?

OF COURSE! ONE OF THOSE CHEAP HOTELS DOWN ON THIRD AVENUE!

712

SOON-

HERE THEY ARE! NOW ALL I NEED IS A PLAN!

TEL

ROOMS

HEY! WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT'S THAT GUY DOING GOING **UP** A FIRE ESCAPE?

ROOMS

THERE CAN'T BE ANYONE WORTH ROBBING IN THIS JOINT! DO YOU SUPPOSE....

THIS IS MY CHANCE! SOMETHING TELLS ME THE BAD GUY IS GOING TO GET NAILED FOR SURE THIS TIME!

HUH! JUST A HALLWAY!

32

THE GUY MUST HAVE DUCKED INTO ONE OF THESE ROOMS! BUT WHICH ONE?

33

34

AH, A SUSPICIOUS SOUND, AND IT'S COMING FROM IN HERE!

DUNK DUNK DUNK

GOTCHA!

FOOEY! IT'S ONLY A LEAKY FAUCET!

DUNK DUNK

SQUEAK
SQUEAK

THAT SOUNDS LIKE **SNEAKING** TO ME!
THIS TIME I'LL HAVE TO MOVE **FAST!**

31

DOWN YOU GO, NAILS,
OR MY NAME ISN'T—

OOPS!

FLUMP

I WONDER . . . IS ANYTHING GOING
TO GO RIGHT TODAY?

BUMP
BUMPITY
BUMP

JUST THINK! I COULD HAVE STAYED
HOME AND READ A GOOD BOOK!

REALLY NOW, CAN ANYTHING
ELSE GO WRONG?

CLOWNS
FOR
HONEST G

CRASH

THUD

GOSH, I'M SORRY, MISTER CLOWN, I—

WELL IF ME UNCLE AIN'T A CLOWN, TOO! IT'S JUST THE BOYO WE'RE **LOOKIN'** **FOR!**

WHAT? YOU MEAN THIS IS NAILS NORTON, OFFICER? I'VE FINALLY **FOUND** HIM?

NEVER HEARD OF ANY NAILS NORTON, DUCKO! THIS HERE'S SLIPPERY SEDGEWICK, WANTED IN SIX STATES FOR FORGERY AND IMPERSONATING POLITICIANS!

WOW! IS THERE A **REWARD**?

I WOULDN'T BE KNOWIN' ABOUT THAT! YOU'D BEST CHECK WITH CITY HALL! COME ALONG NOW, SEDGEWICK, WE'VE A LITTLE DATE WITH THE **CLINK!**

AND SO-

WELL, **WAS** THERE A REWARD?

SORT OF! NOW THAT I'M RECOGNIZED AS THE **BEST FINDER** IN DUCKBURG, THE MAYOR, OF ALL PEOPLE, GAVE ME A **JOB!**

REALLY? DOING **WHAT**?

FINDING SOMEBODY WILLING TO **VOTE** FOR HIM IN THE NEXT ELECTION!

The End

Walt Disney's MICKEY MOUSE in FAME

NO ONE SUFFERS PRAISE LIKE THE RELUCTANT HERO –

...ONCE AGAIN THE BLOT'S CRIMINAL MIND *FAILED* TO COMPREHEND MICKEY'S SUPERIOR *COURAGE* AND FABLED *DETERMINATION* TO *FOIL* HIS DIABOLICAL SCHEME!

B-BUT...

D 2006-041

AND TO THINK, YOU USED AN *AIR CONDITIONER* TO FELL HIM! HOW'D YOU *DO* IT?

HONEST CHIEF, I *DON'T* DESERVE ANY CREDIT HERE BECAUSE...

...I DIDN'T *DO* A *THING!*

MODEST, HUH? BUT OUR FILES ARE *FILLED* WITH EXAMPLES OF YOUR TRIUMPHS OVER THE BLOT!

STATIC LABORATORY

AND MY KEEN SENSES DETECT *YET ANOTHER* FIRST-RATE HEAD-THUMPING STORY!

C'MON, DOC, SPILL THE BEANS! HOW *DID* THE BLOT MEET HIS WATERLOO?

MY MEMORY'S AS *DENTED* AS MY DOME, BUT I'LL DO MY BEST TO TELL ALL I KNOW...

"THE EVENING WAS MEANT TO BE A MOVIE NIGHT FOR US BOYS – "

"MICKEY WAS MAKING POPCORN AT THE LAB WHILE I WAS FETCHING A STACK OF DVD'S FROM HOME..."

"WHEN – "

HELP! POLICE!

REACH FOR THE SKY, PAL! SHOW ME THOSE UNDERARM STAINS!

"THEN DISASTER!"

BONK!

NYA-HA HA HA HA!

=OOF!=

"I *IMAGINE* THE BLOT KNOCKED ME OUT COLD TO GAIN ACCESS TO MY LABORATORY – "

=GLEEP!=

UNDOUBTEDLY BECAUSE THE LAB CONTAINS ***NUMEROUS*** INVENTIONS THAT, IF MODIFIED, COULD BE UTILIZED FOR ***DIABOLICAL PURPOSES!***

BUT DOC, YOU DIDN'T ACTUALLY ***SEE*** THE BLOT...

WELL, NO, MY ***CRANIAL LUMPS*** CAN TESTIFY TO MY IGNORANCE ON THAT SCORE!

YOU SEE, CHIEF? YOUR FIRST EYEWITNESS STATES I WAS HIP-DEEP IN ***POPCORN*** AT THE TIME!

NOW, NOW! I'M SURE GOOFY CAN TELL US HOW A VILLAINOUS PLOT WAS VANQUISHED BY A GALLANT HERO!

WELL SIR, THERE IT WAS – A NIGHT PITCH DARKER THAN MOST WITH ONLY A FULL MOON TO GUIDE THE WAY...

"...AND THERE I WAS - ITCHING TO START MOVIE NIGHT AS SOON AS I COULD GET TO DOC'S LAB WITH THE FIZZY POP!"

"BUT THERE WERE STRANGE NOISES AND SHADOWS PLAYING TRICKS ON MUH EYES..."

RUMBLE!

SWISH! BROOM!

"THEN SUDDENLY - "

EGADS, MELVIN! YOUR ADORING WIFE IS *UNDER ATTACK!*

TAK! TAK!

ZING!

YOW!

"IT SCARES A FELLA SILLY *HEARING* THAT KINDA RACKET IN THE DARK..."

"...BUT LOOKING UP ONLY MADE MATTERS *WORSE!*"

NYA-HA HA HA HA!

THEN FER NO REASON THE GOSH-DARNED BLOT ***ASSAULTED*** ME WITH A NEFARIOUS DEVICE!

"I TRIED *NIGHTILY* TO WIGGLE MYSELF OUTTA THAT SMOTHERING BLACKNESS..."

?

"...BUT THE NEXT THING I KNEW I WAS PROPELLED INTO THE AIR ON SOME KINDA CONTRAPTION..."

NYA-HA HA HA HA!

"...AND DARNED NEAR SUFFERED A *SORRY FATE* WHEN THE DUDE SMACKED ME INTO SOMETHING HARD!"

WHAM!

!

THIS BIG ROTTER WAS BENT ON *REARRANGING* MY PRETZELS *FER GOOD!*

THE *NERVE* OF SOME PEOPLE!

?

BUT I NEVER LAID EYES ON MICKEY WHIPPING THE PANTS OFF HIM! IT WAS ALL OVER WHEN I CAME TO!

THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN *SAYING*, CHIEF! THERE'S *NO STORY* TO TELL!

WHAT A SWELL BUNCH OF *NOODLE-HEADS!*

THE SINGLE GREATEST ACT OF BRAVERY TO HIT TOWN IN *WEEKS* AND NOT ONE WITNESS SAW *A DOGGONE THING!*

HOLD YOUR HORSES, CHIEFY!

THE EPIC SPECTACLE WAS DULY NOTED BY *MY* STEELY GAZE AND RAZOR-SHARP MEMORY OF *EVERY* SINGLE SOLITARY DETAIL!

DON'T LISTEN TO HORACE'S *BALONEY!* THE GUY'S AN OVERBLOWN *BRAGGART!*

A LOT YOU KNOW, SMARTY-PANTS! BESIDES, THERE'S NO HARM IN ME RIDING YOUR COATTAILS FOR THE PUBLICITY...

"I WAS EAGERLY PERAMBULATING TO DOC'S LAB CLUTCHING THE TASTY TRAPPINGS OF MOVIE NIGHT..."

I ADORE CHEESY PIZZAS!

"NEVER IN ALL MY TENDER YEARS HAVE I WITNESSED A SCENE SO FILLED WITH SUCH SINISTER SHENANIGANS – "

GANG-WAY!

YOW!

TING! ZING! ZING!

!

"...WHEN ALL HECK BROKE LOOSE!"

"SUDDENLY THE CURTAIN ROSE TO REVEAL AT LAST THE FULL SCOPE OF THE SCENE AND THE *SOURCE* OF THE CHAOS!"

"I ASK YOU, DID I *QUIVER IN FEAR* OR WAIL AND BEAT FEET FOR COVER?"

I'D LAY *GOOD ODDS* ON THE ANSWER TO *THAT!*

~:HMPH!:~ I SHALL CONTINUE...

"NO, SIR! EVEN WHEN MISTER DRAPERY-SHANKS LOOSENED HIS BARRAGE OF MASTICATING MAYHEM..."

"...I STOOD MY GROUND!"

"BUT THE WORLD WAS TEETERING ON THE BRINK OF DOOM..."

"...AND DESPERATE TIMES CALLED FOR A GRADE-A FOUR-STAR *FOE BASHER!*"

!

"LUCKILY AT THAT MOMENT, *MICKEY* GALLANTLY TOOK UP THE CHALLENGE BY HEROICALLY FACING HIS NEMESIS ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE - "

"AND SO, WITH BAITED BREATH AND IN JOYFUL ANTICIPATION OF THE CARNAGE TO COME..."

RIP!

WHAT A LOAD OF *HOGWASH!*

"...I WITNESSED A DISPLAY OF *COURAGE* UNPARALLELED IN THE ANNALS OF HEROISM!"

THAT REST, AS EVERYONE CAN IMAGINE, IS *HISTORY!*

THAT'S QUITE A YARN! IS IT *TRUE*, MICKEY?

YES, MR. MOUSE, THE BROADCAST MEDIA *HUNGERS* FOR HEROIC TALES TO KEEP OUR AUDIENCE RIVETED TO THEIR TELEVISIONS!

I *REFUSE* TO FURTHER *DISTORT THE TRUTH* BY ADDING *MY* TWO-CENTS!

THE MEDIA *ALWAYS* GETS ITS STORY, MR. MOUSE!

I'M SURE THE *BLOT* WILL OBLIGE YOUR VIEWERS WITH A BROADCAST CONFESSION --

OH, FER GOSH SAKES! THE BLOT'S *GONE!*

THIS IS THE RADICAL *LIMIT!* EVERYONE WAS SO *FOCUSED* ON TURNING *ME* INTO A *HERO* THAT YOU NOT ONLY LET THE BLOT *ESCAPE*...

...BUT YOU FORGOT ONE OTHER THING --

I *DON'T WANT* TO BE LABELED A "HERO"!

NEXT MORNING –

YOUR STORY IS ON THE *FRONT PAGE* OF *EVERY* NEWSPAPER IN TOWN!

OH, SURE... "MICKEY CAPTURES THE BLOT!"

BUT THEY *BURIED* THE FACT THAT THE BLOT *ESCAPED* ON PAGE 27!

YOU'RE A HERO!

DON'T BELIEVE WHAT THE MEDIA REPORTS, MINNIE! NOT *ALL* THE FACTS ARE KNOWN!

YOU MEAN THE STORIES *AREN'T TRUE?*

NOT A BLASTED WORD OF 'EM!

AND SO, A RELUCTANT MICKEY REVEALS THE TRUTH –

"I ARRIVED EARLY AT DOC'S LAB TO MAKE A BIG BATCH OF POPCORN FOR MOVIE NIGHT – "

POP! POP! POP! POP!

"WHEN, SUDDENLY – "

HELP! POLICE!

POP! POP! POP!

?!

REACH FOR THE SKY, FELLOW! SHOW ME THOSE UNDERARM STAINS!

MELVIN! TURN THAT BLASTED TV *OFF!*

"POOR DOC NEVER KNEW WHAT HIT HIM –"

BUMP!

NYA-HA HA HA HA!

BONK!

-OOF!-

"AND THEN I HAD FRONT ROW SEATS TO THE MOST IMPROBABLE SERIES OF EVENTS AS YOU'RE EVER LIKELY TO SEE – "

GLEEP!

RUMBLE!

SWISH! BROOM!

GLOM!

ZING! ZING! ZING!

TAK! TAK! TAK!

NYA-HA HA HA HA HA!

EGADS, MELVIN! YOUR ADORING WIFE IS *UNDER ATTACK!*

ZING! ZING! ZING!

YOW!

"THE FATES, ENJOYING THE MERRY JOKE, SELECTED THE NEXT HAPLESS DUPE FOR THEIR AMUSEMENT – "

STATIC LABORATORY

"POOR GOOFY WAS SIMPLY AT THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME..."

"...AND THE COMEDY OF ERRORS CONTINUED!"

NYA-HA HA HA!

?

GAH!

"AMIDST BURSTING FIZZY POP BOTTLES AND ACCIDENTAL SKATEBOARDING, GOOFY MADE A FAST EXIT..."

"...WITH RESULTS THAT WERE ABOUT WHAT YOU'D EXPECT!"

!

FIZZLE! SPUTTER! POP! POP!

" CONFUSED BY SHADOWS AND NOISE, HORACE FELL TO HIS KNEES..."

"...*HORRIFIED* BY THE INGLORIOUS DEMISE OF HIS PIZZAS!"

OH, WHAT A TERRIBLE WASTEFUL *TRAGEDY!*

HOLD ON A MINUTE! EVEN IF DOC AND GOOFY WERE ***MISTAKEN*** IS ASSUMING THE BLOT HAD ATTACKED THEM...

...WHAT OF HORACE'S ACCOUNT OF YOUR ***SHOWDOWN*** WITH THE BLOT?!

IT ***NEVER HAPPENED!*** HORACE IS TRUMPETING TO HIS OWN TUNE FOR THE SAKE OF ***REFLECTED GLORY!***

THEN HOW ***DID*** YOU FOIL AN INTERNATIONAL MASTER CRIMINAL?!

I ***DIDN'T!*** I HAD ABSOLUTELY ***NOTHING*** TO DO WITH CAPTURING THE BLOT!

"YOU SEE, THE FATES WERE NOT INCLINED TO SPARE *ME* FROM THEIR MERRIMENT..."

"...SO WHEN DOC'S POPCORN POPPER, DESIGNED TO ACCELERATE THE POPPING PROCESS, *EXPLODED*..."

"...AND THE HEAVILY BUTTERED CONTENTS WERE LAUNCHED LIKE A MISSILE..."

?

"...THAT WAS JUST THE BEGINNING OF THE FINAL ACT IN THIS IMPROBABLE DRAMA!"

BY SHEER LUCK, THE ***BLOT*** WAS ON THE SIDEWALK BELOW IN POSITION TO BE ***CLOBBERED*** BY THE AIR CONDITIONER!

I WAS TOTALLY ***SURPRISED***, AND EQUALLY AS ***IGNORANT*** OF THE BLOT'S REASON FOR BEING THERE...

...YET EVERYONE ***ASSUMED*** I WAS THE ***HERO*** OF THE HOUR!

DON'T LET IT GET YOU DOWN, MICKEY!

SOMETIMES THE ***NEED*** FOR HEROES ***BLINDS*** PEOPLE TO THE ***TRUTH!***

AND OTHER TIMES, THE TRUTH IS BEST KEPT ***SECRET*** BY THE RELUCTANT AND ***HUMBLED*** HERO...

...AND HIS →GIGGLE!← ***VERY AMUSED*** GIRLFRIEND!

THE END

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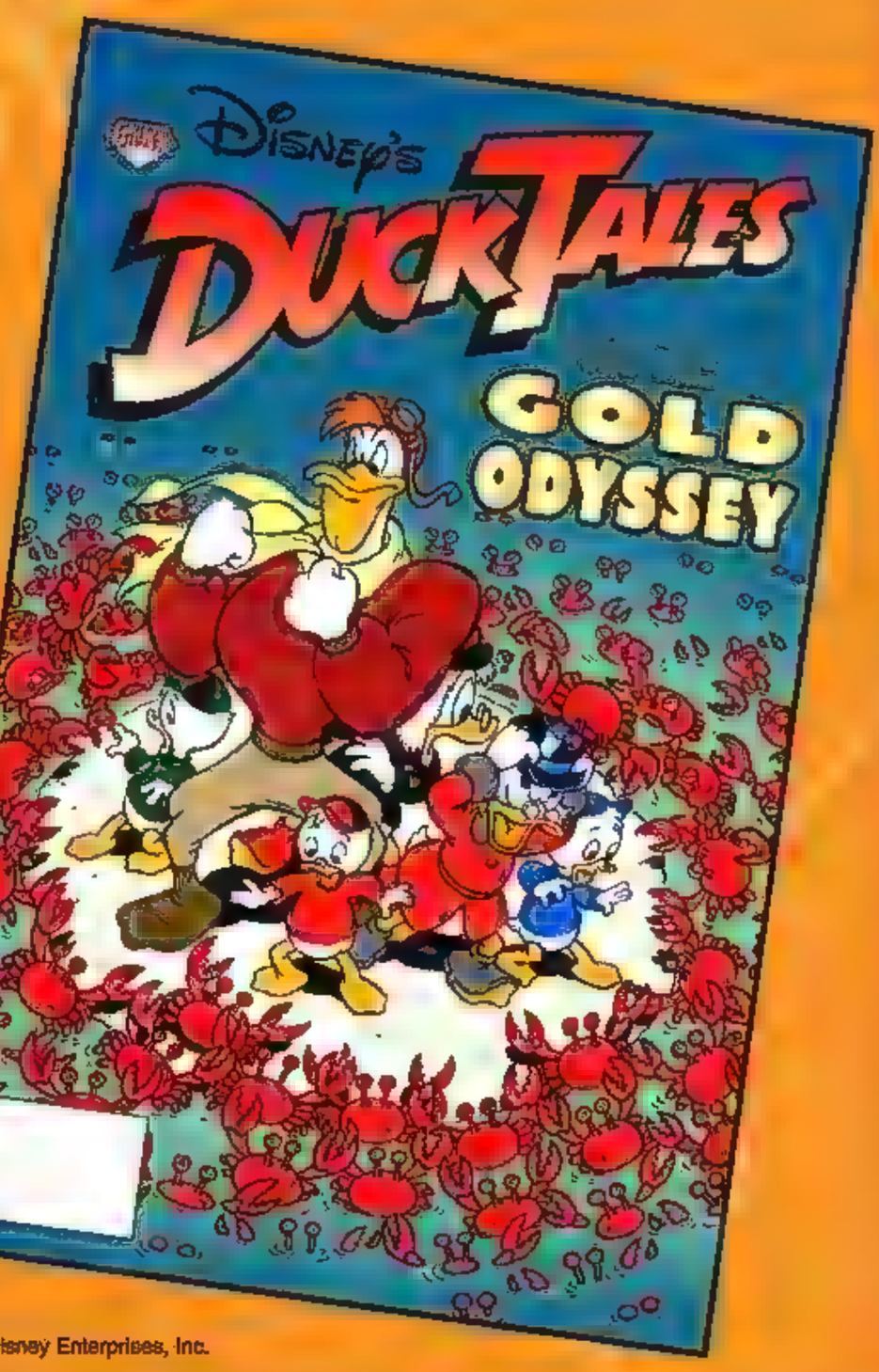
Disney's DuckTales

THE GOLD ODYSSEY

Travel around the world (and beyond) with Uncle Scrooge, Launchpad McQuack, and Huey, Dewey, and Louie in their quest for gold. Of course there are a few problems along the way, the biggest one being Flintheart Glomgold! Gemstone Publishing brings you all seven chapters of this classic DuckTales adventure under one cover. Available October 2008!

STORY BY
Bob Langhans

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
Cosme Zuartieri and Robert Bat



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Walt Disney's

Huey, Dewey & Louie

A NICHE IN CRIME

=YAWN!= TWO *DAYS* AS A BEAT COP, AND I'M *BORED* ALREADY! OH, FOR A *PROMOTION* TO THE CRIME SQUAD... AND SOME *ACTION!*

DRAGON'S BREATH COMIC SHOP

NEW THIS WEEK
SUPER SNOOPER #679
ALL-STAR BEAKMAN & HERRING #12
FLIP THE FISH #165
PUP COP #135

HOURS
MO-FRI: 9-6
SAT: 10-5
SUN: SET

D 97511

BUSTING PERPS, PUNCHIN' JAWS— THAT'S MY MEAT! NOT TICKETING GUYS FOR BIKING WITHOUT REFLECTORS...

OOPSIE!

SURF!

SORRY, UNCA DONALD... DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE! TOO WRAPPED UP IN OUR COMIC BOOK!

AND WHAT, PRAY TELL, COULD BE SO *RIDICULOUSLY* ENGROSSING..

PUP COP, UNCA DONALD! THE WORLD'S *SMARTEST* POLICE DOG!

HE WORKS WITH HIS BOSS, OFFICER KELLY! BUT IT'S PUP COP WHO ALWAYS SOLVES THE CRIMES!

PUP COP!

BAH! NO *MUTT* IS THAT BRAINY!

DON'T *DIS* OUR *HERO*, UNCA DONALD! WHY, LEARNING SOME OF PUP COP'S METHODS MIGHT EVEN *HELP YOU* AS A POLICEMAN!

DOUBLE BAH! I HAVEN'T NEEDED *HELP* WITH *ONE* CRIME YET!

HOW MANY HAVE YOU SOLVED?

ER, UH— NONE! BUT *SHOW ME ONE*, KIDS, AND I'LL *OUTDO* YOUR OLD DOG'S NEW TRICKS!

YOU *HOPE!* YOU HAVE TROUBLE SOLVING CROSSWORD PUZZLES—

=HMPH!= THEY'RE TOO *SIMPLE* FOR MY *ADVANCED* MIND! BUT GIVE ME A CASE, A CROOK, A CRY FOR HELP...

BINGO!

HOW ABOUT BAGGING THE GUY WHO SWIPED *THIS* BARNFUL OF PAINTINGS?

HALF OF ART GALLERY EMPTIED BY MASTER THIEF

HAAH! *PERFECT!* I'LL HAVE THE CAD IN CUFFS BEFORE THE DAY IS DONE!

HOME FOR A PLAINCLOTHES DISGUISE, BOYS! SOON THE CRIME SQUAD WILL BE *BEGGING* TO INDUCT ME!

HE MEANS *INDICT!*

SOON!

HOI POLLOI GALLERY

I DUNNO, GILHOOLEY! BETTER WARN TH' PICKLEBURG SQUAD... JUST IN *CASE* THIS NOTE'S LEGIT!

WON'T THOSE DETECTIVES GET *MAD* AT YOU BUTTING IN?

BLOOEY! THE MORE COPS ON A CASE, THE BETTER!

ANON!

...AND *THIS* IS WHERE WE THINK THE ROGUE BROKE INSIDE!

=HMM!= THE GLASS WOULD SEEM TO SUGGEST THAT!

AND THESE *FOOTPRINTS* WOULD SEEM TO *CONFIRM* IT!

GUY HAS *UNDER-SIZE FEET*... CHECK! I'M HOT ON HIS TINY TRAIL!

COULD BE WE'VE GOT A CRIMINAL *KID!* LOCAL *DELIN-QUENCY* IS—

CHILDREN *HATE* OUR MUSEUM, OFFICER DUCK! *FAR* TOO UNCOOL!

IN *PUP COP* #44, THE BAD GUY PLANTED *FAKE FOOTPRINTS* AT THE SCENE OF A CRIME!

MAKING PEOPLE THINK HE WAS A *MIDGET,* SO THEY'D TRAIL THE WRONG THUG!

AND IN *PUP COP* #52, THE CROOK BROKE A *WINDOW,* SO POLICE WOULD *THINK* HE GOT IN THAT WAY, BUT—

PUP COP! POP COP! *PUP COP!*

IT'S *OBVIOUS* THOSE SHOEPRINTS ARE REAL! AND WHO EVER *HEARD* OF BREAKING AND NOT ENTERING?

BUT...

SILLY COMIC BOOK GEEKS! *REAL* DETECTIVES LIVE IN THE *REAL* WORLD!

IMAGINE ANYONE THINKING PUP COP ISN'T STRICTLY A *TOP* COP!

IF HE'S GONNA BE LIKE *THAT*, HE DOESN'T *DESERVE* OUR HELP!

≒HMM!≒ *THESE* TITCHY PRINTS MATCH THE FLOWER BED SAMPLES FOR SIZE!

WAKKITY WAK! THE PERP'S WHOLE *PATH* IS STILL HERE!

UP THE WALL WITH SUCTION CUPS ON HIS HANDS! THEN *OUT* THROUGH THE SKYLIGHT! CHECK!

YOUR COLLEAGUES PRESUMED THE SAME, SIR!

OR MAYBE THE CROOK MADE MORE *FAKE FOOTPRINTS* WITH TWO BOOTS ON STICKS!

LIKE IN *PUP COP* #46!

FAR, THY NAME IS FETCHED!

REAL DIRT... REAL STRESS MARKS... *REAL* FOOTPRINTS!

HEY! EYES FORWARD, MEN!

SOMEHOW THIS *STRIPE* IS MORE SUSPICIOUS THAN THOSE TRACKS!

WHUP! LOCKED DOOR! END OF THE LINE!

NO KEY IN HERE!

NO *VISIBILITY* DOWN HERE!

⇒SIGH!⇐ C'MON! LET'S SEE IF UNCA DONALD'S WISED UP YET!

THERE CAN'T HAVE BEEN ANYTHING *TOO* BIG IN THAT CLOSET... I *HOPE!*

⇒HMM!⇐ *HALF* YOUR PAINTINGS ARE STILL HERE! IT'S *TRAP TIME,* SEZ ME! THAT THIEF WILL BE *BACK!*

NOT TONIGHT, HE WON'T!

THE CAD DROPPED A *MEMORANDUM!* YOUR COLLEAGUES TOOK IT FOR SAFEKEEPING, BUT NOT BEFORE I MADE THIS *COPY!*

GIMME THAT!

"NOTE TO SELF: ROB PICKLEBURG MINT TO-MORROW!"

⇒HMPH!⇐ FORGETFUL OAF! LOOKS LIKE YOU AND YOUR STAFF CAN CHILL OUT!

BUT UNCA DONALD! WHAT IF THAT NOTE'S A *DECOY*... JUST SO WE WON'T *EXPECT* HIM BACK TO-NIGHT?

DON'T SAY IT! A CROOK USED THAT TRICK IN—

PUP COP #124! YOU'RE CATCHING ON!

AWRIGHT! AW*RIGHT!* LET THE *DETECTIVES* WATCH THE MINT! TONIGHT WE *DUCKS* GET A STAKEOUT GOING *HERE!*

NOW YOU'RE COOKIN'!

IT WAS EVENING... AND IT WAS MORNING!

=SNORT!= WE'VE ROTTED HERE FOR AGES AND SEEN ALL OF *ZIP!*

NO STAFF EXCEPT THE *JANITOR* ON DUTY...

AND NOW EVEN *HE'S* CHECKING OUT!

HEY! WHAT'S HE DOING WITH A *WHEELBARROW* AT THIS AWFUL HOUR?

SCHLEPPING HOME SOME PERSONAL BRIC-A-BRAC... *MAYBE!*

FORGET HIM, INFANTS! THE *THIEF* COULD BE USING THIS *DISTRACTION* TO SNEAK BY UNDER OUR NOSES!

BUT IT'S *THREE A.M.*, UNCA DONALD! IF THE THIEF SHOWED UP *NOW*, HE'D NEVER *FINISH* HIS HEIST BY DAWN!

WHY ARE WE *WHISPERING*, THEN?

LET'S DO ONE LAST PERIMETER CHECK AND DIG OUT FOR HOME! I'M *BEAT!*

AND I'M *MAD!* I WAS COUNTING ON A CROOK- SEE!

I'LL INSPECT ONE HALL! YOU KIDS TAKE THE OTHER!

HOW MUCH COULDA CHANGED?

BROKEN WINDOW'S BOARDED UP NOW!

AND THE *KEY* TO THAT *CLOSET* IS BACK! LET'S TAKE A PEEK!

HOLY HOPPIN' *MUDPUPPIES!*

THE *THIEF'S HIDEOUT!* UNCA DONALD WON'T BELIEVE IT!

NO KIDDING! IT *PROVES* PUP COP WAS *RIGHT!*

=BLUB! GLOOB!= ...NEW WINDOW SMASHED... REST OF PAINTINGS YANKED... WHAT? WHERE? HOW?

WE KNOW HOW! AND *WHO*... WE *THINK!*

THUS!

=SNORT!= *FISHY* AS AN OYSTER HOUSE... BUT I'M NOT SURE IT *PROVES* ANYTHING!

THE *BARROW,* UNCA DONALD! IT HAS TO MEAN—

AW, FITZ AND SPITZ! HOW *DOES* A BURGLAR BURGLE WITH A JANITOR *JANITING* IN THE WAY?

UNLESS OUR THIEF *IS* THE JANITOR!

THAT'S IT! JUST LIKE IN *PUP COP* #72!

THE *PERFECT CRIME!* BROKEN GLASS... FOOTPRINTS... A *NOTE* ON THE FLOOR! WHO'D EVER SUSPECT IKEY KLEEN, HUMBLE *JANITOR?* YAK YAK!

TALLY HO, UNCA DONALD! WE'LL GET HIM GOOD!

SHEESH! WHAT MAKES YOU THINK WE'LL FIND HIM?

JUST THE JUNIOR WOODCHUCK HOMING BUG WE PLANTED ON GEORGES DRAKE'S DUCK WITH A GUITAR...

WAK! PLEASE DON'T GO THERE—

...IDEA COURTESY OF PUP COP #52!

SCREEEEEECH! YOU WENT THERE! THAT'S THE LIMIT, YOU DOGGIE DUPES!

THIEF UP AHEAD AROUND THE BEND!

I'M ALREADY AROUND IT!

THAT OLD WAREHOUSE SAYS HIDEOUT ALL OVER!

TYPICAL SQUAT FOR A POORLY-EDUCATED THUG! ENTER D. DUCK, ALERT AND AWARE...

INSIDE!

POSING AS A JANITOR WAS THE RAT'S PAJAMAS! I'LL TRY IT IN PICKLEBURG NEXT!

HEY! WHAT TH'...

BOOMP!

HOWLIN' CATS! A TRACER! GOOD THING I'M PREPARED FOR PURSUERS... YAK! YAK! YAK!

SO FOUR PROXY PIGEONS APPROACH THE POT!

NO OLD MASTERS IN THE ANTEROOM! BUT WE'LL JUST CHECK BEHIND DOOR NUMBER ONE!

THAT COULD BE A *TRAP*, UNCA DONALD!

OH, SO?

IN *PUP COP* #48, A CROOK'S DOOR HANDLE WAS ***ELECTRIFIED*** TO GIVE THE FUZZ A 250-VOLT JOLT!

POOH BAH! I'LL TEACH YOU PESTS NOT TO BELIEVE EVERY-THING YOU...

...REEAAD!

I'M STILL A BELIEVER!

FRZZAP!

WE *TRIED* TO WARN YOU!

SHUT UP! IF THE HANDLE'S A NO-GO, I'LL ***FORCE*** THE DOOR!

UH-OH! THE *PUP COP* #48 DOOR WAS ***ALSO*** ARMED WITH EXPLO—

LALALALALALALALAAAH! I CAN'T ***HEEEAR*** YOU!

UMPH!

THUB!

WHOA! LIFE IMITATES ART *AGAIN!* I CAN ALMOST *SEE* THAT BIG SOUND EFFECT HANGING IN MIDAIR!

KABOOM!!

=HMM!= OFFICER KELLY SURE CAN *LAND!*

SHUT UP! I *OPENED* THE DOOR!

PAF!

THIS IS *IT,* INFANTS! *CROOK CLOBBERIN'* TIME! *MANO A MANO!* SO PUT DOWN THE *PUP COP* AND—

BUT UNCA DONALD! *RIGHT HERE* IN *THIS* MONTH'S ISSUE...

I SAID *PUT IT DOWN!* OR *I'LL* PUT PUP COP DOWN... LIKE THE *MAD DOG* HE IS!

HEY!

GOODBYE, OLD YELLER! YAA-AAAAH!

WE WEREN'T DONE *READING* THAT!

MAYBE NOW YOU'LL STOP *PESTERING* ME...

WITH THAT FOUR... COLOR... GUFF?

RUMBLE!

GREAT *CAESAR!* WE'RE *BLOCKADED!*

SLAM!

FSSST!

SIDE DOOR HAS A *LOCK,* NATCH...

AND THAT PIPE HAS *GAS!* KIDS, WE'RE *DONE!*

÷GROAN!÷ I CAN'T *STAND* IT! BUT... *WHAT WOULD PUP COP DO?*

WE THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK... BUT WE *DON'T KNOW!* YOU JUST *TORE UP* THAT ISSUE!

WE'RE *J.A.H.O.O.S** IN THE JUNIOR WOOD-CHUCKS! IF ONLY... IF *ONLY*—!

WELL, WHADDAYA KNOW! *OFFICER KELLY* PLUGS THE PIPE WITH *GUM! HE* SAVES THE DAY FOR THE FIRST TIME *EVER!*

* *JIGSAW ASSEMBLER OF THE HIGHEST ORDER OBTAINABLE!*

NO COMMENT!

÷KOFF! KOFF!÷ THAT'S *ALMOST* AS RARE AS *ME* SAVING IT, HUH?

ON THE SIDE DOOR'S OTHER SIDE!

TIME TO *CHECK* ON THOSE BUSYBODIES! IF THE BLAST DIDN'T FINISH THEM, MY POISON GAS DID!

GENIUS, THY NAME IS KLEEN!

OH, YEAH?

AACK!

GLOM!

I THOUGHT THE GAS TRAP *COULDN'T* FAIL!

WELL, YOU ALMOST GOT US WITH THOSE *OTHER* STUNTS!

IF WE HADN'T HAD *PUP COP COMICS* TO HELP US OUTSMART YOU...

YEAH! HOW *DID* YOU DREAM UP ALL THOSE *SNEAKY* SCHEMES?

TAKE A WILD GUESS! =GROAN!=

WAK!

AND SO...

THE BRAIN GANG ROBBED ANOTHER BANK! DOES THE NEW BOSS HAVE A *PLAN?*

NOT *YET*, GILHOOLEY!

D. DUCK — HEAD DETECTIV

BUT HE'S *WORKING* ON IT!

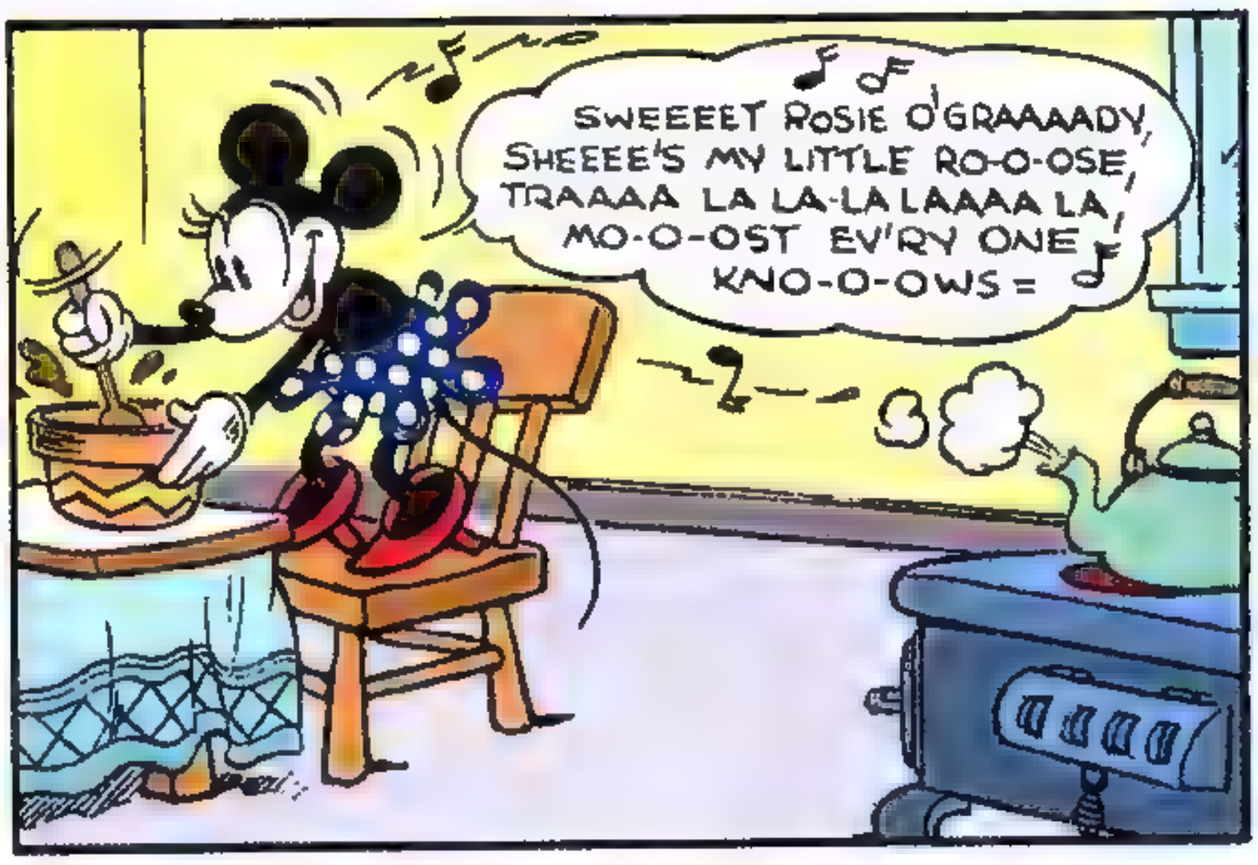
The End

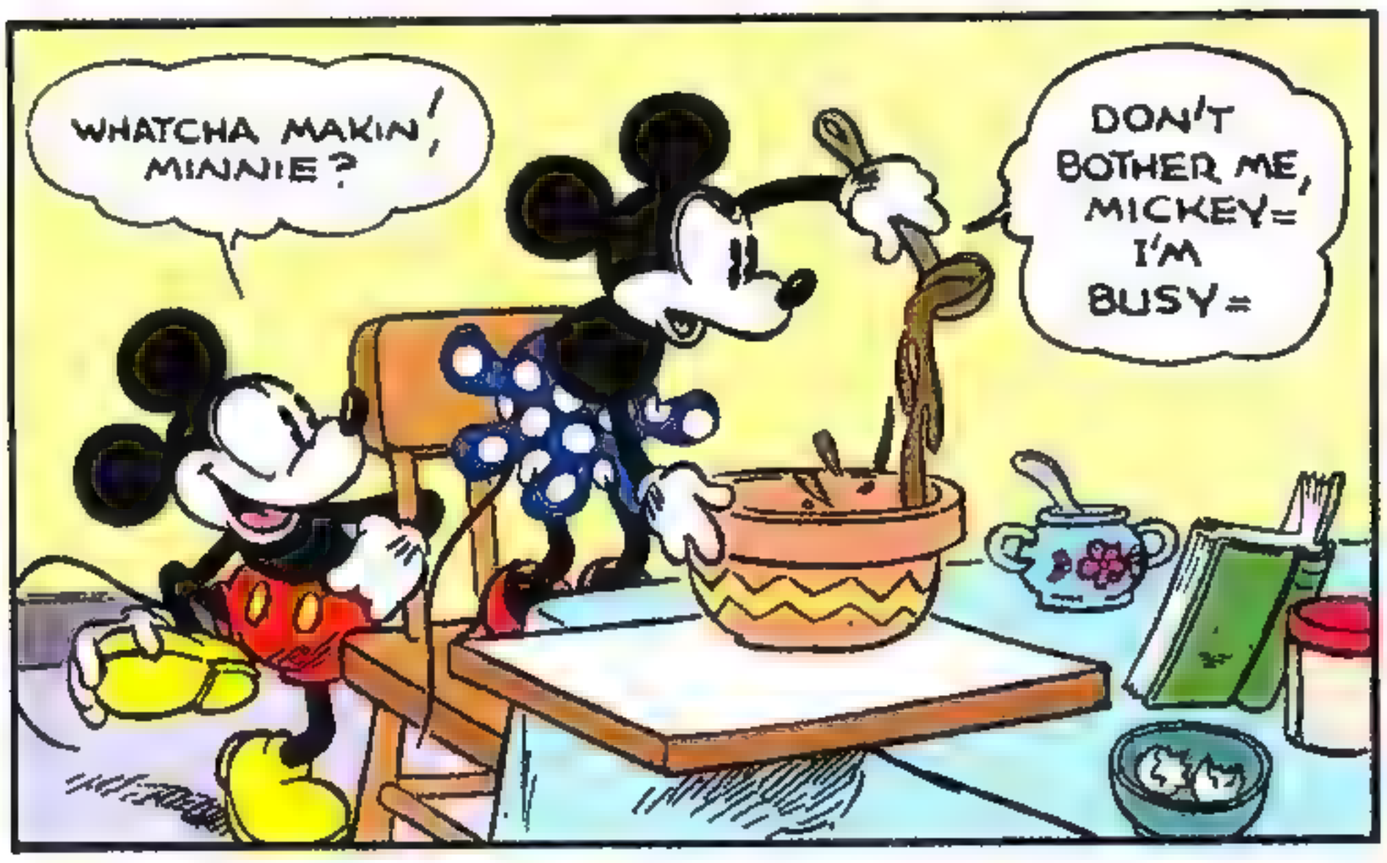
MINNIE MOUSE

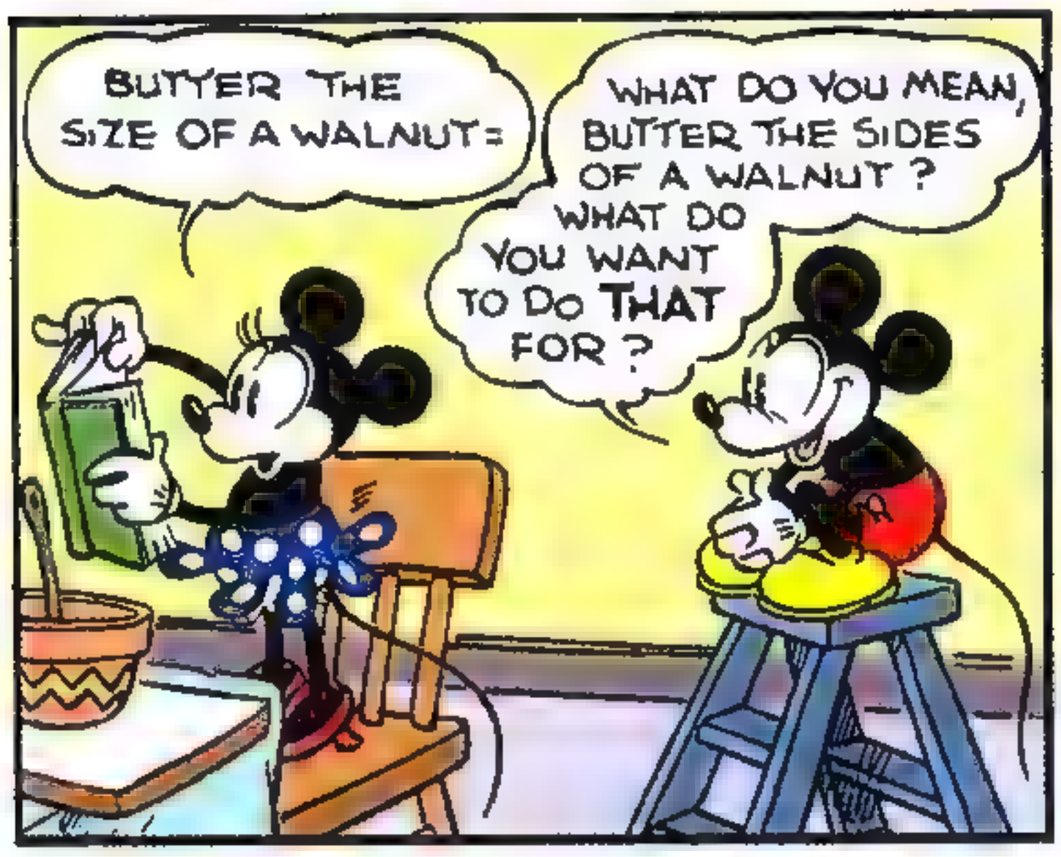
in too many cooks

by WALT DISNEY'S

ZM 32-02-28






BUTTER THE SIZE OF A WALNUT=
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, BUTTER THE SIDES OF A WALNUT?
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO THAT FOR?
MICKEY, PULEEEZE! I'M BUSY!
WHATCHA MAKIN'?
NOTHING!

LET/S SEE — — SIT ON A HOT STOVE AND STIR CONSTANTLY=

HUH! WHO WOULDN'T?

MICKEY MOUSE! YOU MAKE ME SO MAD! CAN'T YOU LEAVE ME ALONE?

SURE — — I CAN! BUT THAT WOULDN'T BE SO MUCH FUN!

LEMME LICK THE CROCK AND I'LL BET I CAN TELL YOU WHAT YOU'RE MAKIN'

I WISH YOU'D GO ON HOME!

LOOK, MINNIE! I'LL BET YOU CAN'T DO THIS!

LOOK OUT!

YOO HOO!

UMMMM! NOW I KNOW WHAT YOU WERE MAKIN'= IT WAS UPSIDE DOWN CAKE =!

The End

Walt Disney's

FETHRY DUCK in: BLACKBOARD BUNGLE

:AH!: HERE COMES THE SCHOOL BUS NOW! A WHOLE *HALF HOUR* LATE... THAT'S *PROGRESSIVE!* EVEN THE BUS DRIVER THINKS FOR HIMSELF!

FETHRY'S SCHOOL OF PROGRESSIVE SELF-THINKING

S 4051

SCREECH!

GOOD MORNING, STUDENTS OF–

TROMP TROMP TROMP TROMP TROMP

BLESS THEIR LITTLE HEARTS, THEY'RE COMING ALONG NICELY!

SELF-EXPRESSION IS FINE...

2

...BUT A TEACHER CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL!

2

BIFFITY BAM

SLAM

THERE! IT'S SAFE NOW... THEY'VE THROWN EVERYTHING!

ALL RIGHT! "FUN WITH NOISE" TIME IS OVER!

NOW THEN, CHILDREN! TODAY I HAVE A *SURPRISE* FOR YOU! WE'RE ALL GOING ON A *FIELD TRIP*... OR SHOULD I SAY A *HOUSE* TRIP!

WE'RE GOING TO VISIT MY DEAR COUSIN DONALD AND SHOW HIM HOW *ADVANCED* WE ALL ARE! WE'LL *SURPRISE* HIM... BECAUSE I WOULDN'T WANT HIM TO FUSS FOR US!

MEANWHILE!

WELL, TABBY, ISN'T IT NICE TO *RELAX*? WITH FETHRY SO BUSY RUNNING HIS NEW SCHOOL, WE'RE *SAFE!*

SO TRUE! SO TRUE!

I WONDER WHO *THAT* COULD BE?

KNOCK!

KNOCK!

OH NO!

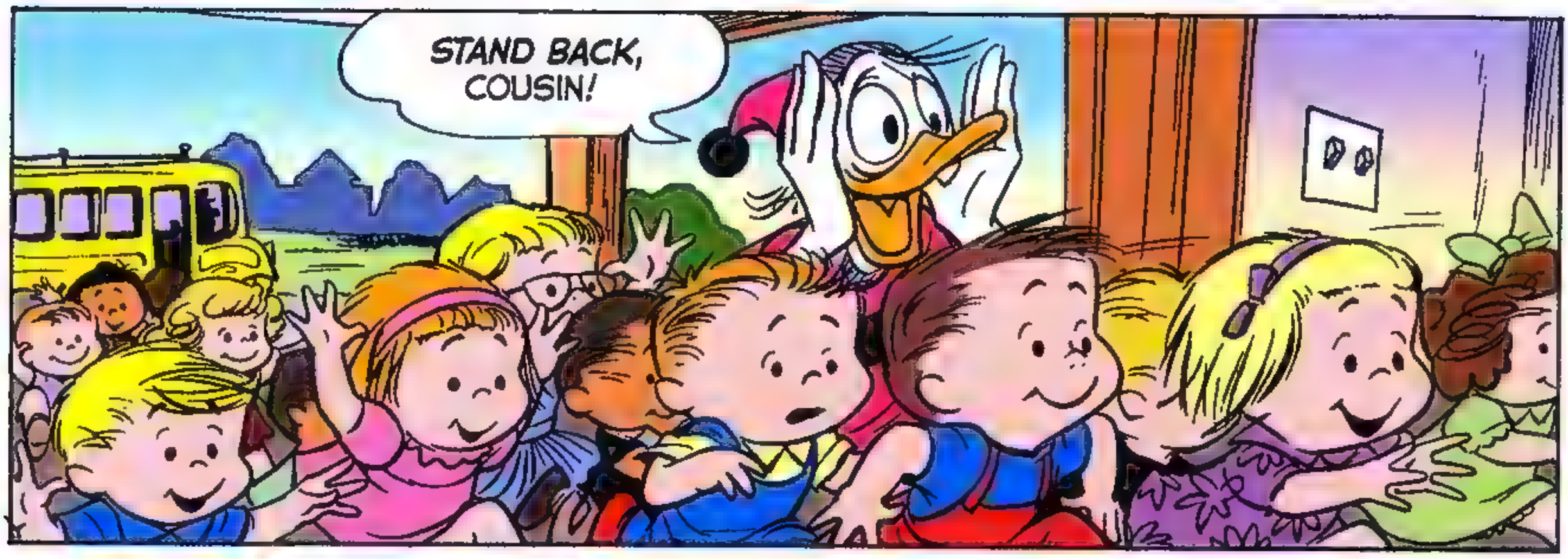
NOW WHY IS *HE* SO PANIC-STRICKEN?

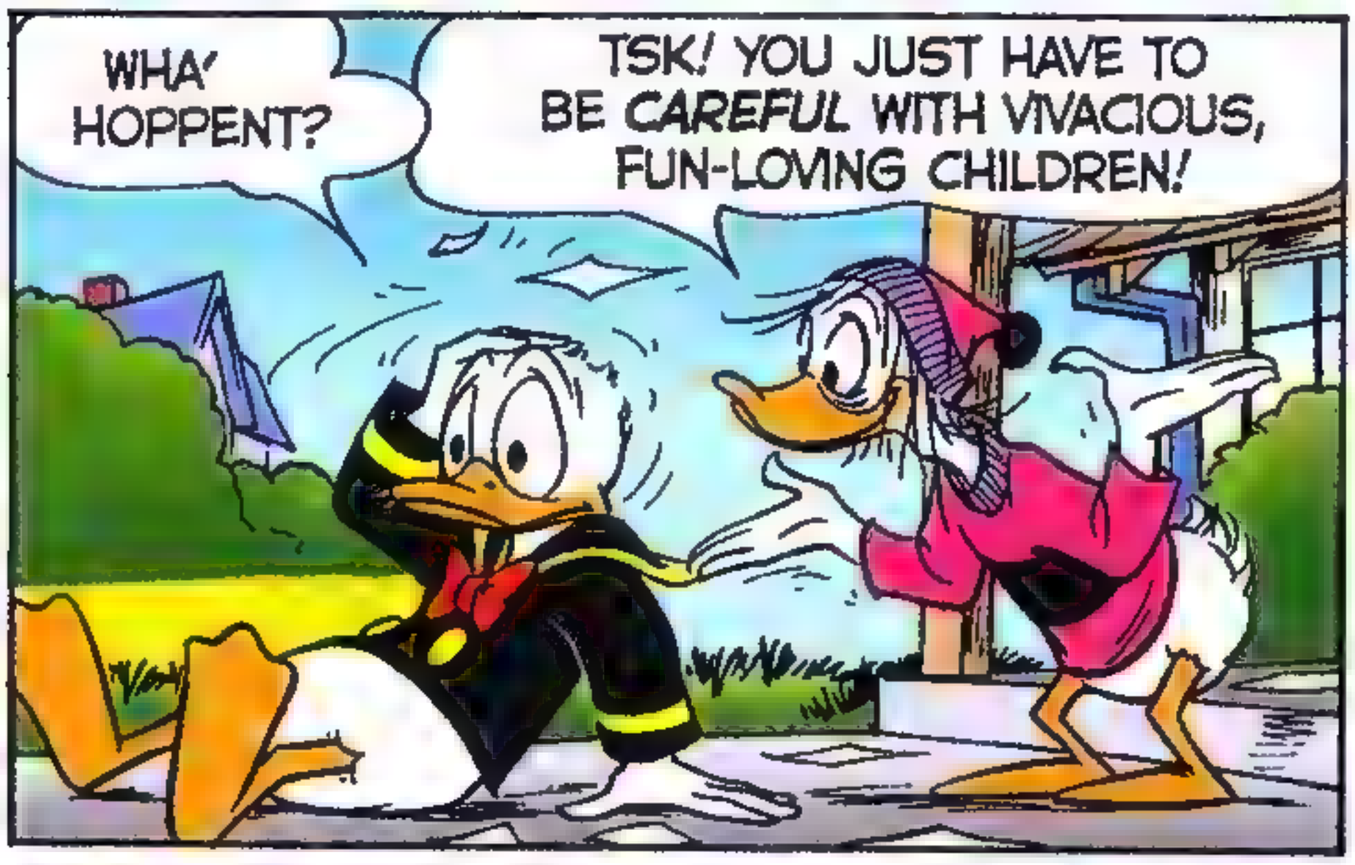
NOW I KNOW!

HI, COUSIN!

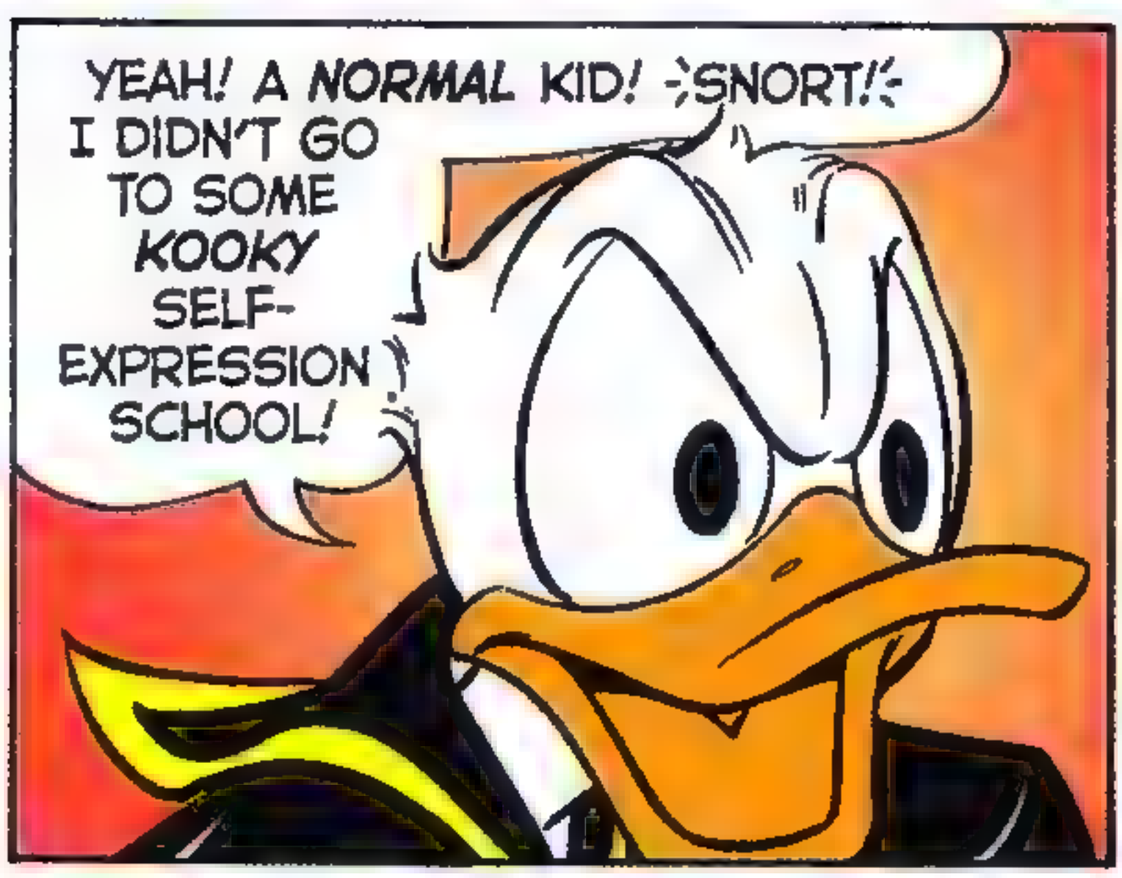
BUT-BUT... BUT YOUR *SCHOOL*? AND THE *STUDENTS*?

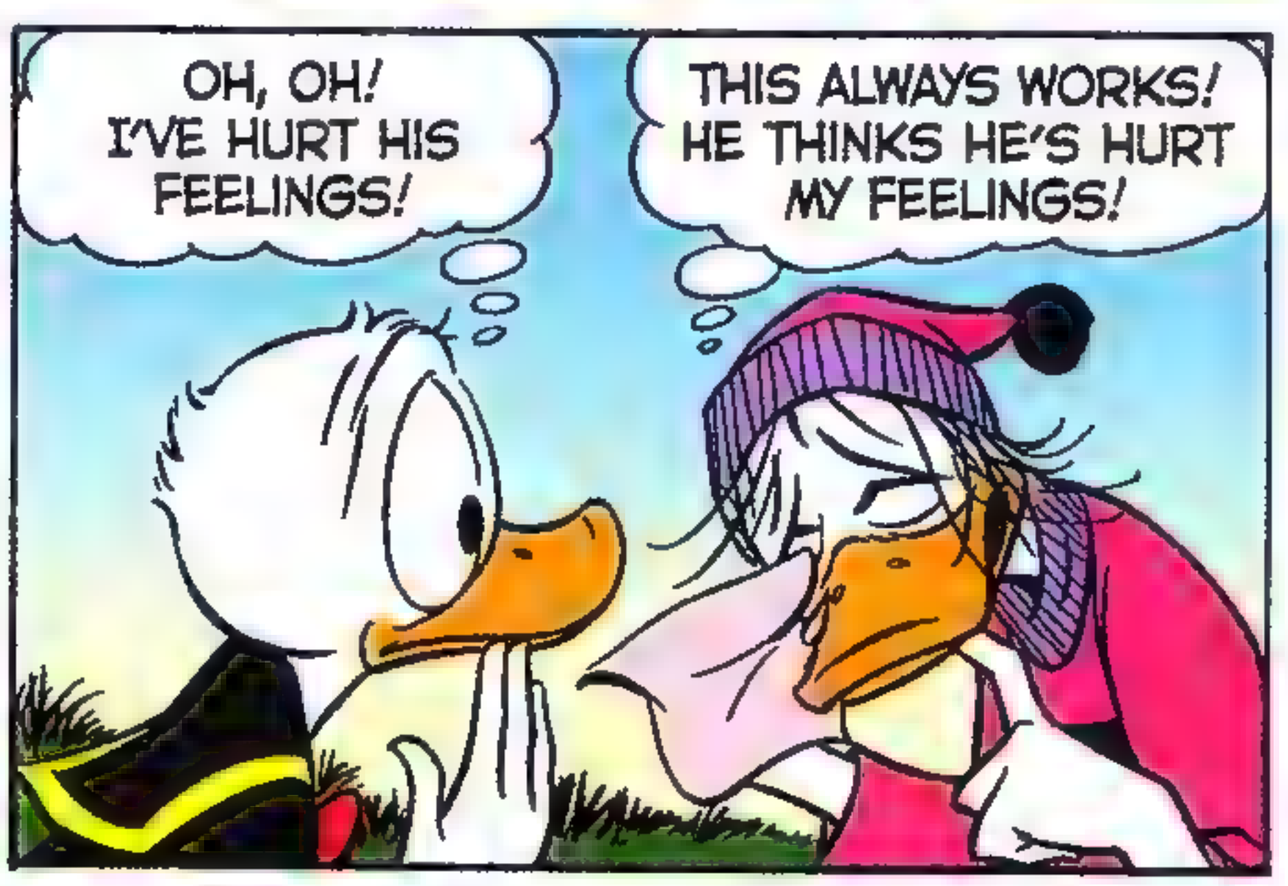
OH, I BROUGHT THEM *WITH* ME! *C'MON IN*, KIDDIES!

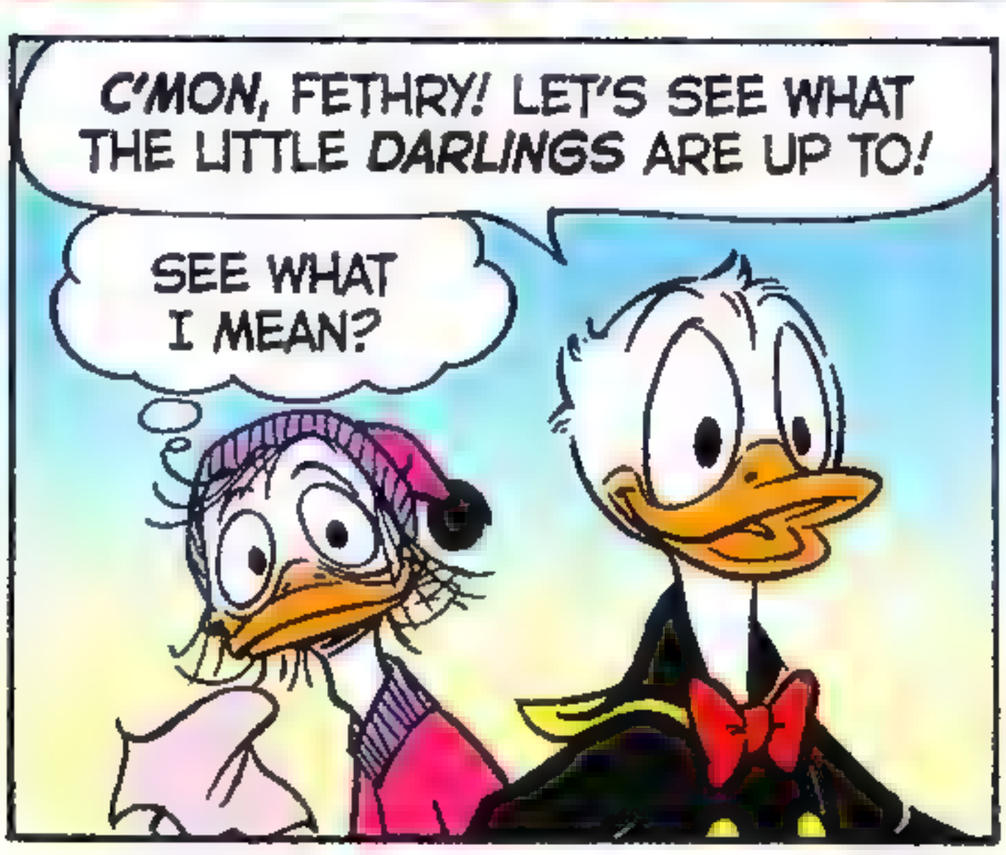

STAND BACK, COUSIN!


WHA' HOPPENT?
TSK! YOU JUST HAVE TO BE CAREFUL WITH VIVACIOUS, FUN-LOVING CHILDREN!

GET 'EM OUTTA HERE!
AW-W! C'MON, DON! YOU WERE A KID ONCE!


YEAH! A NORMAL KID! -SNORT!- I DIDN'T GO TO SOME KOOKY SELF-EXPRESSION SCHOOL!


OH, OH! I'VE HURT HIS FEELINGS!
THIS ALWAYS WORKS! HE THINKS HE'S HURT MY FEELINGS!


C'MON, FETHRY! LET'S SEE WHAT THE LITTLE DARLINGS ARE UP TO!
SEE WHAT I MEAN?

AH, THE HOME ECONOMICS GROUP! THEY'RE GOING TO BAKE YOU A CAKE!
GROAN!
FOOF FOOF

MY KITCHEN SURE IS *FOULED* UP FOR A LITTLE OLD *CAKE!*

TUT! THIS ISN'T *JUST* A CAKE! *THIS* IS A CREATIVE *MASTERPIECE* OF SELF-EXPRESSION!

LOOK HERE IN YOUR *LIBRARY* AT THE *STUDY* GROUP! THEY DO MORE WITH BOOKS THAN *YOU* EVER THOUGHT OF!

YES, THEY CERTAINLY DO!

SUCH *FREEDOM* AND PROGRESSIVENESS!

MY FIRST EDITION *JANE EYRE!... HANDS OFF!*

BUT *DONALD*, YOU'RE *SUPPRESSING* THEM!

I *DON'T #$%@ CARE!* THEY *SHOULD* BE SUPPRESSED!

AND *WHAT* THE DING-DONG IS–

OH, *THAT'S* THE ZOOLOGY GROUP! THEY WANT TO STUDY YOUR KITTY!

LOOKIT MY FINGER PAINTING, TEACHER!

WAK!

THAT'S *SPLENDID*, SAMMY! YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY!

AND HE'S GOING A LONG WAY!

PLEASE, DONALD! NOT IN FRONT OF THE CHILDREN!

I'M WORRIED YOU'RE RUINING MY TEACHER IMAGE!

THAT'S NOT THE *ONLY* IMAGE I'LL RUIN!

CAKE'S READY, EVERYBODY!

WHA?

:WHEW!: SAVED BY A CAKE!

WHOOPSIE!

SPLAT!

HOW CAN I *DIS-INHERIT* A COUSIN?

IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO FOR HIM!

OKAY, YOU PESTNIKS... IN HERE! WE'RE GOING TO PLAY A *NEW GAME!*

THE GAME'S CALLED "BEHAVE, OR YOU'LL GET IT IN THE END!"

:HMMM!: SOUNDS LIKE A NICE, *NOISY* GAME!

AND *NOW* WE'LL PLAY A GAME CALLED *"VISIT'S OVER!"*

MARCHING LIKE SOLDIERS! AW-W, HOW *CREATIVE!*

THERE, THAT'S THA– :HUH?!:

BRRRING!!

YES, THIS IS DONALD DUCK! I... *WHAT?*

...AND SO, MR. DUCK, EIGHT SHARP TOMORROW MORNING! DAISY TOLD US YOU'D BE THE *PERFECT* ONE TO TAKE THE *KIDDIES* FROM PLEASANT MEADOW SCHOOL ON THEIR ANNUAL *HIKE!*

THEY'RE SO *CREATIVE*, YOU'RE *SURE* TO ENJOY THEM–

MR. DUCK? *MR. DUCK! SPEAK* TO ME!

I HATE TO SEE A GROWN MAN CRY!

BWAH!

SNERF!

THE END!

IT'S A JR. WOODCHUCKS

EXTRAVAGANZA!

Illustrations by

DAAN JIPPES

Stories and Inspiration by

CARL BARKS

"The Daan Jippes Collection" *is a new trade paperback series collecting the work of this beloved Dutch Duck Man. The first volume features a selection of his "recreations" of Carl Barks tales written but not originally drawn by Barks. Stories include "Duckmade Disaster," with Uncle Scrooge, and "Traitor in the Ranks," costarring Donald Duck. Look for it at your favorite comic book store.*

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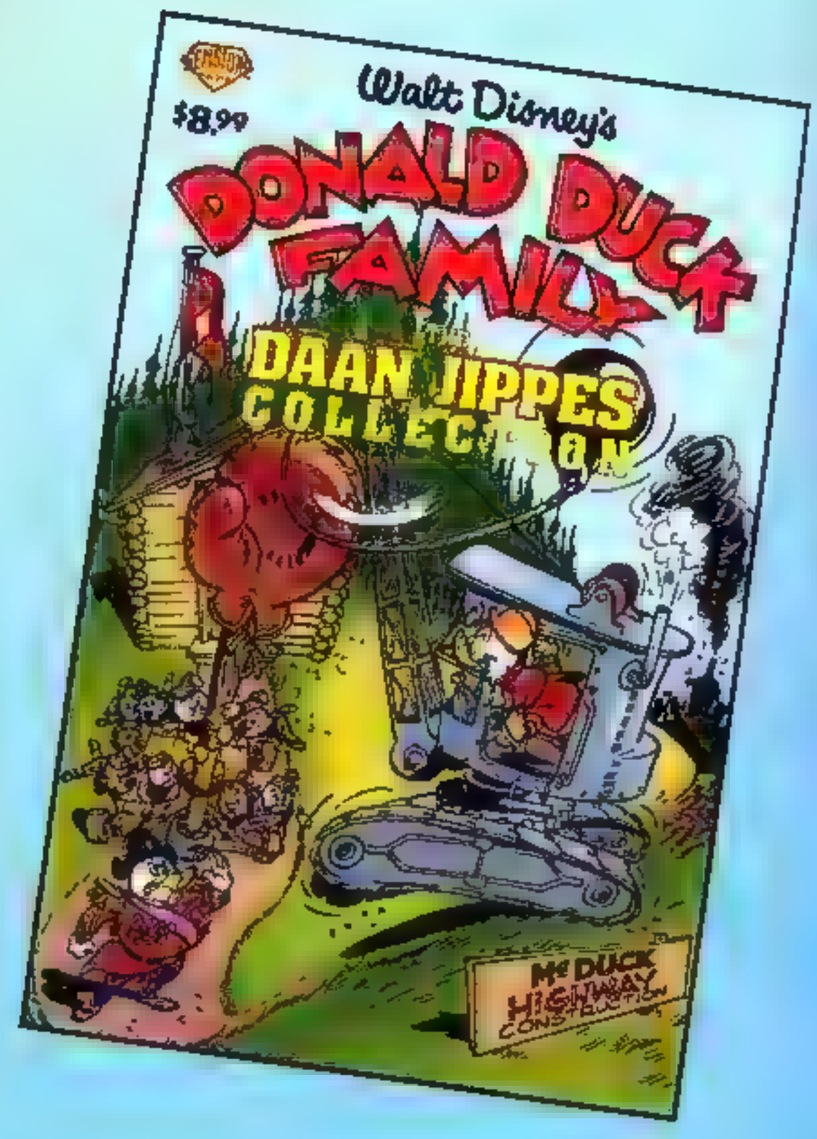

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Walt Disney's

SUPER GOOF in TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE

CARE TUH GO OUT FER SOME *ICE CREAM*, GILBERT?

NOT NOW, UNCLE! IF I CAN'T SOLVE THIS *MATH PROBLEM*, I MIGHT BE *DROPPED* FROM THE CLASS FOR *SUPER GENIUSES!*

I COULDN'T *BEAR* TO BE *DEMOTED* TO THE *ADVANCED PLACEMENT* CLASS!

D 2004-131

WELL THEN, LEMME *HELP* YUH! AFTER ALL, *TWO* HEADS ARE BETTER'N *ONE!*

THAT IS *NOT* NECESSARILY TRUE!

HYUK! O' *COURSE* IT IS!

WHY, I ONCE *KNEW* A MAN WITH TWO HEADS, WHO WAS ALWAYS PERFECTLY DRESSED–ON ACCOUNT O' HIS HEADS COULD GIVE EACH OTHER FASHION ADVICE!

OH, UNCLE...

...WHY DO YOU REGALE ME WITH *CHILDISH FANTASIES?* NO TWO-HEADED MAN COULD *POSSIBLY* EXIST!

IT WAS *CONCLUSIVELY* PROVEN BY PROFESSOR BIOTA J. NERDSWORTHY--

WELL, *HE* DON'T KNOW *EVER'THIN'*, Y'KNOW! NOW LEMME SEE THET PROBLEM!

:SIGH!: FINE... LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH!

ALL Y' GOTTA DO IS- :ULP!:

UH... :GULP!:

:SPZT!: WE INTERRUPT SYMPHONY HOUR FOR THIS *NEWS FLASH!* DOWNTOWN SHOPPERS, *AVOID* BANKERS' ROW!

AN *ELEPHANT* JUST *KICKED OVER* MOUSETON SAVINGS AND IS NOW *SIPHONING MONEY* TO ITS *UNSEEN RIDER!* DANGER LEVEL HIGH... POLICE ARE *STYMIED!*

GAWRSH!

LOOKS LIKE A JOB FOR *SUPER GOOF!*

BUT YORE *HOMEWORK*-

I MEAN, UH, RIGHT! SUPER GOOF!

I *HATE* TA *ABANDON* YUH, GILBERT!

I SHALL *ATTEMPT* TO PERSEVERE WITHOUT YOUR *STERLING ASSISTANCE!*

HI-HO AND AWAY I GO!

:SIGH!: GILBERT WUZ *RIGHT* ABOUT ME NOT BEIN' ABLE TA HELP HIM! I WISH THERE REALLY *WUZ* A TWO-HEADED MAN, SO *I'D* BE RIGHT ABOUT SOMETHIN'!

SHORTLY-

GAWRSH! HERE'S THUH CRIME SCENE, AN' IT'S JUST LIKE THUH RADIO MAN SAID!

:SLLLUUUURRRP!:

PING!

BANG!

MOUSETON SAVINGS BANK

GUESS MUH *FIRST* JOB IS TA TAKE THUH *ELEPHANT* SOMEPLACE WHERE HE CAN'T DO ANY *HARM!*

FSSSSSHHHH

SO I'LL JUST COME IN UNDERNEATH, AN'...

!!!

...PICK HIM UP! *HEY!*

HE *DODGED!* LET'S TRY THAT AGAIN!

:OOF!: DURN! WHOEVER TRAINED THIS BIG GUY KNEW HIS STUFF!

WHAP!

HAHAHA! INDEED I DID!

OH, SHUT UP!

WHO YOU TELLIN' TA *SHUT UP?*

NOT *YOU* SHUT UP! *ME* SHUT UP!

HUGO WILL *THWART* YOUR *EVERY MOVE*, SUPER GOOF!

OKAY, LET 'IM *THWART!* LET 'IM *WEAR HIMSELF OUT* THWARTIN'!

SMECKETTY-SMECKETTY-SMECK!

:YAWN!: ARE YUH GETTIN' *TIRED* O' THIS YET, HUGO?

I-I-I SURE A-AM!

WHAP!

WHAP!

WHAP!

KA-FLOOOM!

KA-FLOOOM!

GUESS THAT'S THUH *END* O' *YORE* CRIME SPREE!

:PANT! PANT!:

THIS IS *YOUR* FAULT!

OH, *SHUT UP!*

SHUT UP WITH THUH SHUT-UPS! HOW DID *TWO* O' YOU GUYS GET INTA THIS LITTLE *BITTY* HOWDAH, ANYWAY?

I'M *NOT* TWO GUYS!

SHUT UP!

GAWRSH! THERE *IS* SUCH A THING AS YOU!

SO? THERE'S SUCH A THING AS *PRACTICALLY EVERYBODY!*

I WISH THERE WASN'T SUCH A THING AS MY *EXTRA HEAD!*

THIS IS *AMAZIN'! INBELIEVABLE!* WHUT'S YORE *NAME?*

MIKE!

IT'S *IKE,* YOU NINNY!

IT'S *MIKE!* AND I HAVE *MORE WILLPOWER* THAN YOU!

:SIGH!: NO KIDDING! THAT'S WHY I'M *HERE* INSTEAD OF *STILL AT THE CIRCUS!*

:GZZZZAWP!:

OH, *WHY* DID I EVER *LEAVE IT?* :SOB!:

FOR A LIFE OF *CRIME* AND *ADVENTURE!* :HAHAHAHA!:

OMIGAWRSH! ACCORDIN' T'MUH *SUPER HEARING...* ONLY *ONE HEAD'S* A CROOK!

"BETWEEN SIDESHOW ACTS, I USED TO LOVE TENDING THE ELEPHANTS! EXCEPT, OF COURSE, THAT ROTTEN HUGO–"

HAWWWNK!

"HAR-HAR-HAR! HUGO WAS THE ONLY ONE I LIKED! THAT'S WHY I HELPED HIM ESCAPE!"

:SOB!: AND NOW... NOW I MUST GO TO JAIL FOR HIS MISDEEDS!

B-BUT YUH CAN'T! THAT'S WRONG!

ONLY... HOW DO I PUNISH THUH EVIL HALF O' THIS GUY WITHOUT PUNISHIN' HIS INNERCENT SIDE TOO?

WHONK!

FIRST THINGS FIRST! LET'S LET A ZOO KEEP YOU, HUGO, TILL THUH CIRCUS CAN RECLAIM YUH!

WHERE'S THUH NEAREST ZOO?

:SIGH!: STRAIGHT AHEAD–

NO, IT'S OFF TO THE RIGHT!

THANKS!

WHAT?!

NO, IT'S STRAIGHT! THAT IS, LEFT FROM HERE!

IT'S RIGHT, I'M TELLING YOU!

RIGHT!
LEFT!
STRAIGHT AHEAD!
BEHIND YOU!
UP!
REMIND ME NEVER TA HAVE A TWO-HEADED MAN FER A PAL!
WELL, HERE WE ARE, NO THANKS TUH YOU! WAIT HERE WHILE I GET HUGO SETTLED IN!
SNARL!
-UH-OH!-
HERE Y'GO, HUGO! YOU SHARE ROSARITA'S SPACE! NOW FER THUH NEXT STEP!
OFFICE
ROSARITA (ELEPHAS VERYWILDUS)
OR NOT-
OF COURSE YOU CAN'T JUST TEMPORARILY ADD AN ELEPHANT TO MY PEN! HAVE YOU NO IDEA HOW MUCH PAPERWORK IS INVOLVED?!
AND MORE BAD NEWS-
MORE THAN THIS?
CIRCUS WON'T TAKE HUGO BACK-THEY SAY HE'S A ROGUE! STAYING PERMANENTLY MEANS MORE PAPERWORK!
HALP! SOMEBODY RESCUE ME FROM-
HELP! HELP!

GAWRSH! SOMEBODY OPENED THUH LION CAGE! AN' I BET I KNOW WHO!

YES, SUPER GOOF! I PICKED THE CAGE LOCK! I'M GONNA SPRING HUGO, AND YOU'LL BE TOO BUSY CATCHING LIONS TO STOP ME!

CAD! CUR! VILLAIN!

GAWRSH, HE'S RIGHT! I *HAFTA* CATCH THUH LIONS BEFORE I CAN STOP HIM!

DANG THAT GUY! I SHOULD *NEVER* O' LEFT HIM ALONE...

...BUT *HALF* OF 'IM WOULDN'T'A *DONE* THIS!

:A-HYUCK!: *THET'LL* LEARN YUH – YUH CAN'T JUST GO AROUND EATIN' FOLKS ALL THUH TIME!

JUST *ONE* ESCAPED LION LEFT! AN' MUH *SUPER HEARIN'* TELLS ME *RIGHT* WHERE HE IS!

HEEELLLP!

ROAR!

RRRRRRRR...

THIS *SERVES YOU RIGHT!* BUT IT DOESN'T SERVE *ME* RIGHT!

SOMEBODY *HELP ME!* I'LL DO ANYTHING! *ANYTHING AT ALL!*

EVEN *GIVE UP CRIME FEREVER?*

YES, *FOREVER!* PLEASE *SAVE ME... I'M SORRY!*

OH, *NOW* YOU'RE SORRY!

...RRRR...

YER *SHORE*, NOW?

YES! *POSITIVE!* ABSOLUTELY 100% CERTAIN!

...RRRR-ROOAARR!

OKAY! I'D HAVE SAVED YUH ANYWAY!

:SIGH!: IT'S JUST AS WELL! CRIME WOULDN'T BE FUN, NOW THAT *HUGO*...

...HAS BECOME SUCH A *WIMP!*

:HYUCK!: SO *BEAUTY'S* TAMED THUH *BEAST*, EH?

YES! I THINK HUGO'S A DELIGHTFUL FELLOW NOW!

YUH *DO*? THET GIVES ME A *IDEAR!*

LET'S DROP THIS KITTY OFF, THEN GO SEE IF TH' *JUDGE LIKES IT!*

LATER—

I'M SO GLAD THE JUDGE LET ME OFF WITH *COMMUNITY SERVICE* IN THE *ZOO!*

ME TOO! YUH *ENJOY* IT, SO YUH *DESERVE* IT!

:SIGH!:

I HAVE TO SPEND *EVERY DAY* CLEANING UP AFTER *ELEPHANTS!*

THET'S OKAY! YUH *HATE* IT, SO YUH *DESERVE* IT! NOW, I BETTER GIT HOME...

...AFORE THET ZOO *MANAGER* GETS HERE WITH ANY MORE *PAPERWORK!*

AND SO—

HIYA, GILBERT! I'M READY FER :GULP!: THET *MATH PROBLEM!*

NO NEED, UNCLE! THANKS TO *YOU!*

YOUR *DEPARTING FLIGHT PATH* MADE AN INSPIRATIONAL *INTEGRAL SIGN!* FROM THERE, IT WAS *EASY!*

GREAT! NOW, LEMME TELL YUH ABOUT MUH *ADVENTURE!*

...SO I WAS *RIGHT!* THERE *IS* A TWO-HEADED MAN!

INDEED SO, UNCLE! BUT YOU WERE *WRONG*, AS WELL!

FROM ALL YOU'VE DESCRIBED, TWO HEADS ARE *NOT BETTER* THAN *ONE!*

:A-HYUCK!:

The End

WALT DISNEY presents

DONALD DUCK

TIME TO GET UP! I MUST START THE KIDS TO FALL TERM OF SCHOOL!

RRRR

A GOOD HEARTY BREAKFAST WILL PUT THEM IN FINE SHAPE FOR THEIR STUDIES!

TABLE'S ALL SET! I'LL CALL THEM!

THEY'RE MOST LIKELY DREAMING SWEET DREAMS OF HAPPY SCHOOL DAYS AHEAD!

THEY'RE NOT IN BED! I DIDN'T THINK THAT ANYTHING LESS THAN **DYNAMITE** COULD GET THEM UP **THIS** EARLY!

I'LL LOOK FOR THEM! MAYBE THEY'VE HIGH-TAILED FOR SCHOOL ALREADY! BLESS THEIR EAGER LITTLE HEARTS!

IN A NEARBY CLOSET!

SHH! LAY LOW TILL HE GOES OUTSIDE!

THEN GRAB OUR BREAKFAST AND LAM FOR THE HILLS!

PHOOEY ON SCHOOL! WE HATE IT!

YOO HOO, BOYS! BREAKFAST'S READY!

HE OUGHTA RING A BELL OR SOMETHING!

QUIET! EAT AND STREAK!

GOBBLE AN' WOBBLE!

THINK OF IT! BOYS SO EAGER FOR SCHOOL THEY'D LEAVE HOME WITHOUT THEIR BREAKFAST! THAT'S WONDERFUL!

WAK! THEY'VE BEEN HERE! THEY'VE EATEN! ..WHAT'S THEIR GAME?

SO! PLAYIN' HOOKEY!

LAST ONE

OUT OF TOWN

IS A BRASS BABOON!

WHITHER AWAY, BRASH FELLOWS?

OH, OH! IT'S UNCA' DONALD!

UH - WE — WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO SCHOOL!

YEH — TO SCHOOL!

MY! YOU'RE MIXED UP THIS MORNING! ...SCHOOL, GENTLEMEN, IS OVER THAT WAY! ...AND YOU ALSO FORGOT YOUR BOOKS!

WHAT A LIFE!
BAH!
DONALD DUCK
I'LL NOT GO INTO THAT OLD SCHOOLHOUSE!
ME, NEITHER!
WE CAN STILL PLAY HOOKEY!
LET'S DO IT!
I BETTER TRAIL THOSE KIDS! THEY DON'T SEEM HAPPY!
WE'LL DUCK INTO THIS ALLEY!
LOOK AROUND FIRST!
SEE IF THE COAST IS CLEAR!
THERE'S NOBODY BEHIND US BUT AN OLD MAN ON A BICYCLE!
GOOD!
SLITHER, SNAKES!
THIS ALLEY GOES CLEAR TO THE HILLS!
HEAP GOOD!
SLOW DOWN! WE'RE MILES FROM SCHOOL NOW!
IS ANYBODY BEHIND US?
ONLY THAT OLD MAN ON A BICYCLE!
WELL, BOYS, THAT WAS A NICE RUN WE HAD! NOW SUPPOSE YOU LITTLE SPRINTERS RUN BACK TO SCHOOL —AND FAST!
UNCA' DONALD!

FASTER, CULPRITS! FASTER!

CUT ACROSS THIS VACANT LOT! IT'S FULL OF PUNCTURE WEEDS!

TRYIN' TO GET AWAY AGAIN, EH? BOY! I LIKE THIS!

WAK! MY TIRES! I'M STUCK!

HE'S COMING ON FOOT! LET'S HIDE IN HERE!

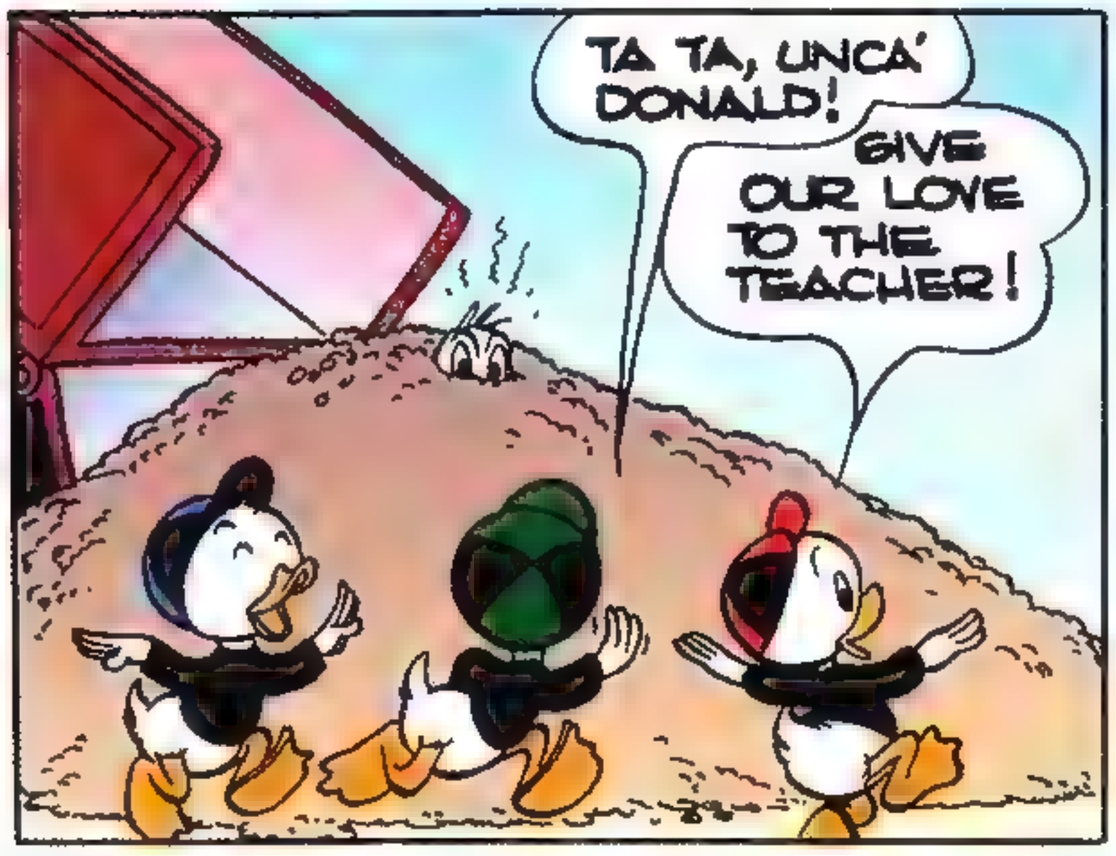
LET SAM BUILD YOUR DAM

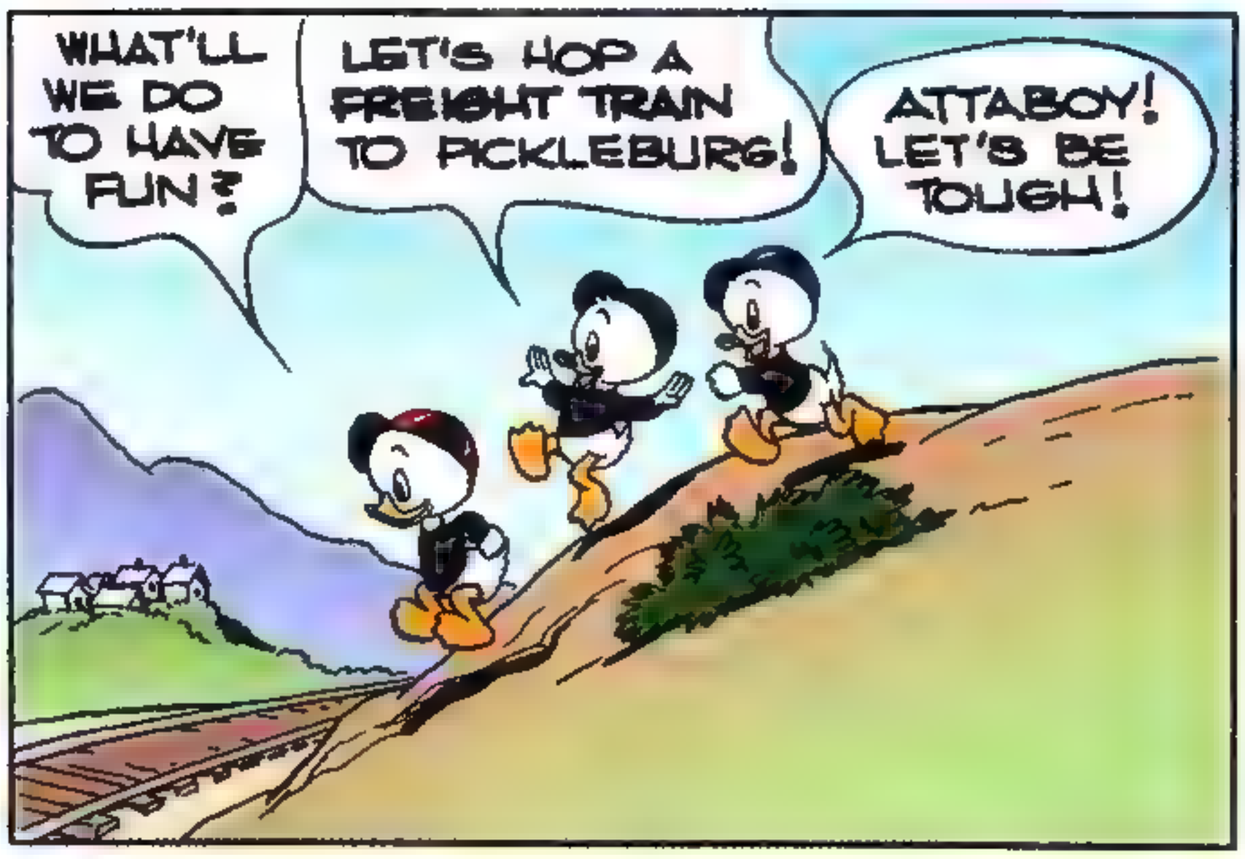
THEY MUST BE HIDING UNDER THIS TRUCK!

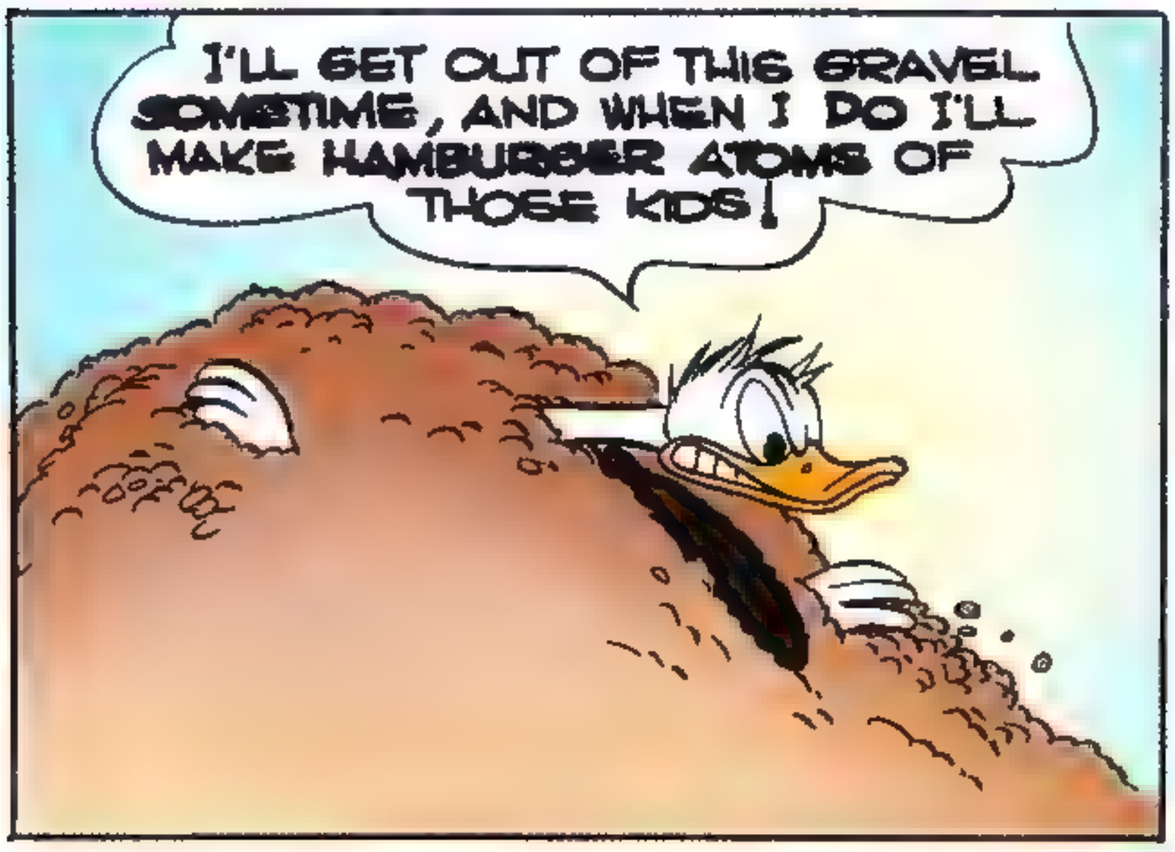
WHAT A SET-UP!

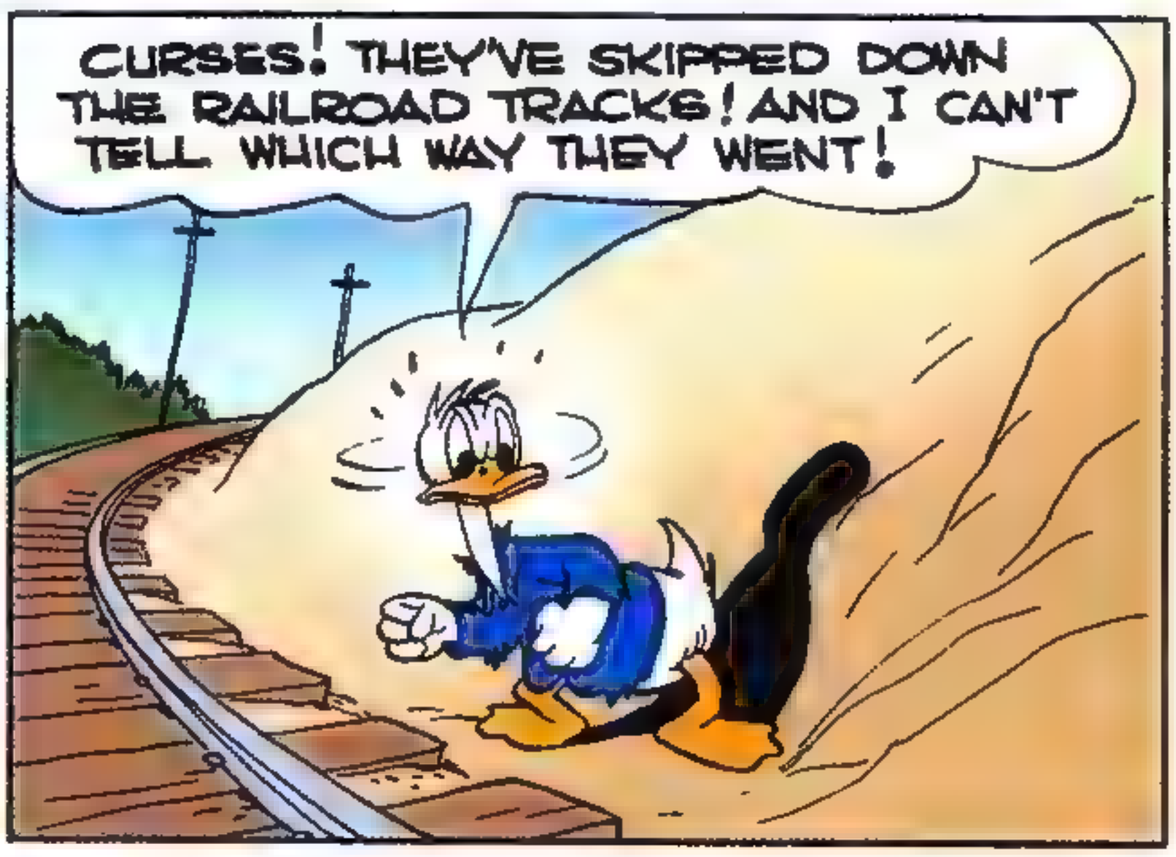
DUMP

HELP! MURDER!

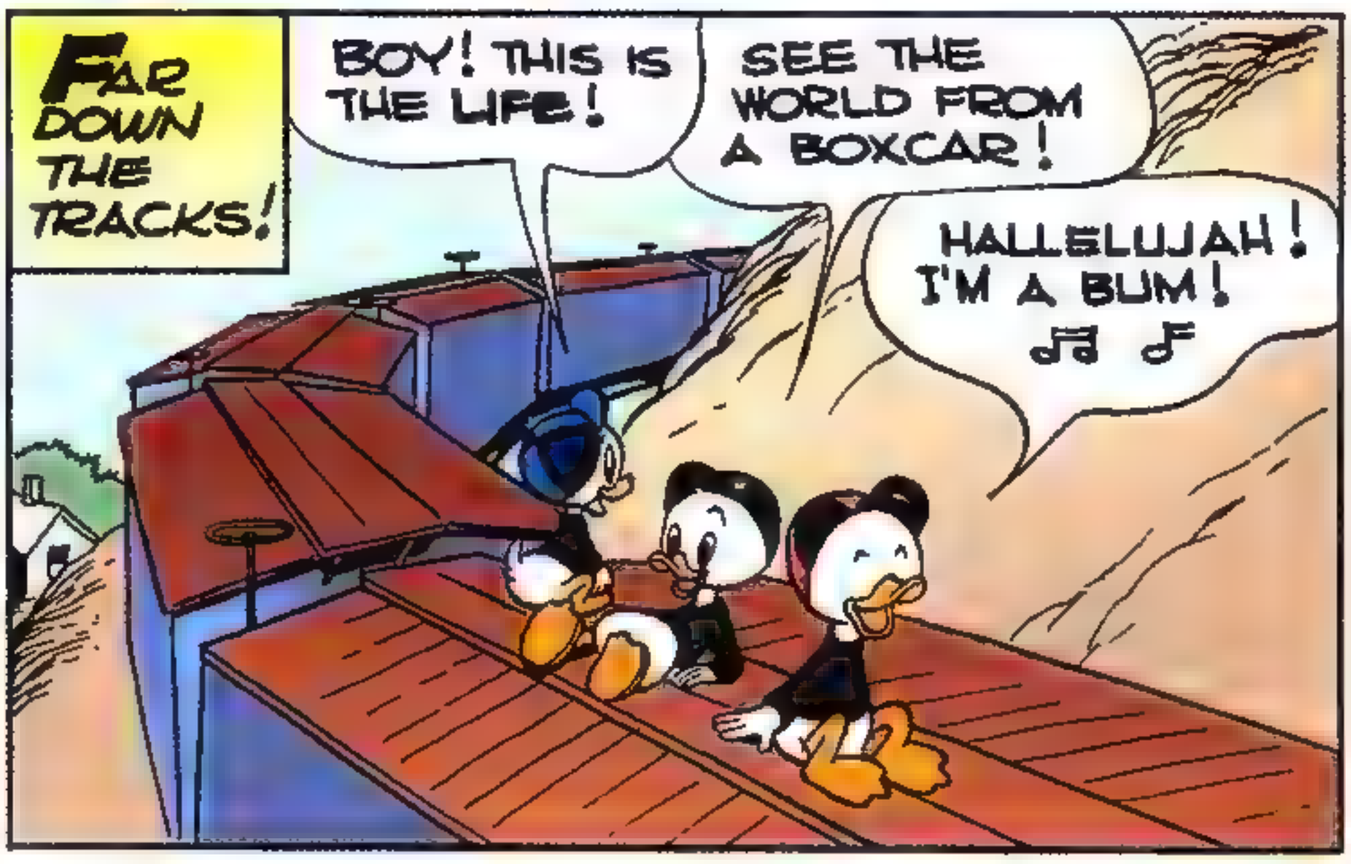

TA TA, UNCA' DONALD!
GIVE OUR LOVE TO THE TEACHER!

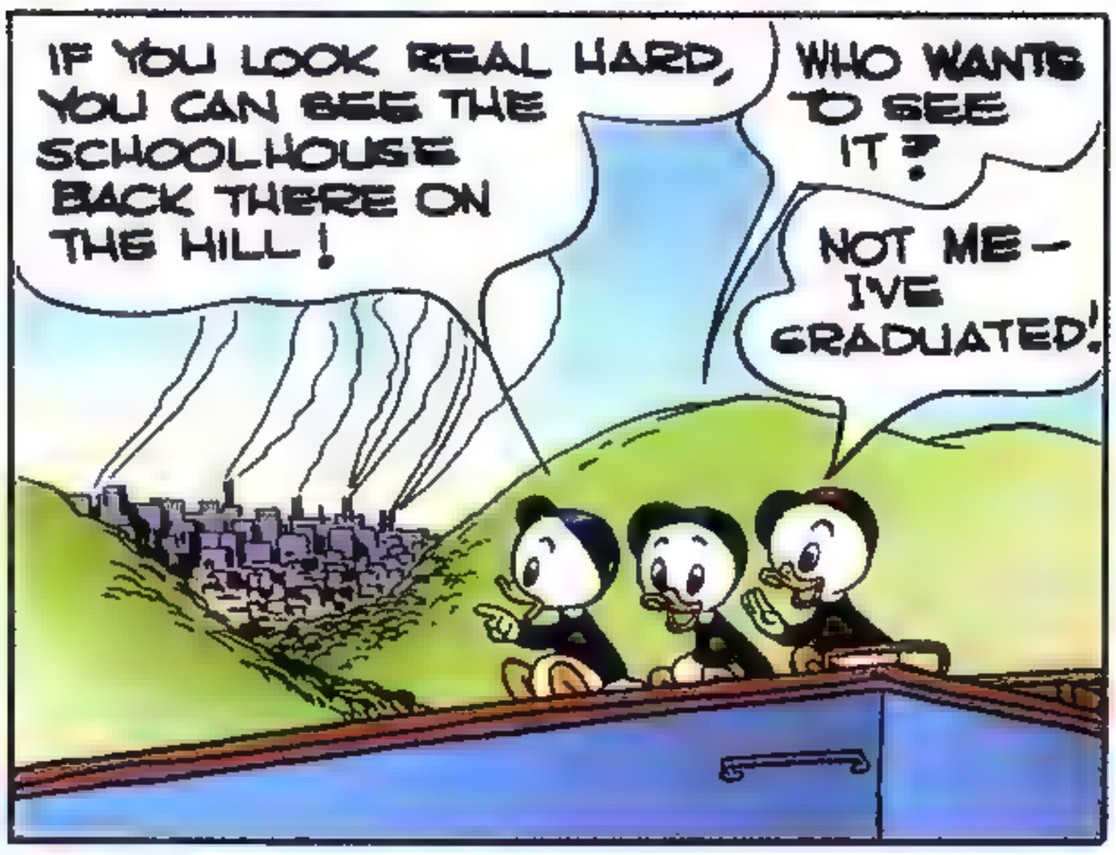

WHAT'LL WE DO TO HAVE FUN?
LET'S HOP A FREIGHT TRAIN TO PICKLEBURG!
ATTABOY! LET'S BE TOUGH!


I'LL GET OUT OF THIS GRAVEL SOMETIME, AND WHEN I DO I'LL MAKE HAMBURGER ATOMS OF THOSE KIDS!


CURSES! THEY'VE SKIPPED DOWN THE RAILROAD TRACKS! AND I CAN'T TELL WHICH WAY THEY WENT!

OH WELL, THEY WON'T WALK FAR ON THESE HOT TIES! I'LL GO HOME AND WAIT FOR THEM!


FAR DOWN THE TRACKS!
BOY! THIS IS THE LIFE!
SEE THE WORLD FROM A BOXCAR!
HALLELUJAH! I'M A BUM!

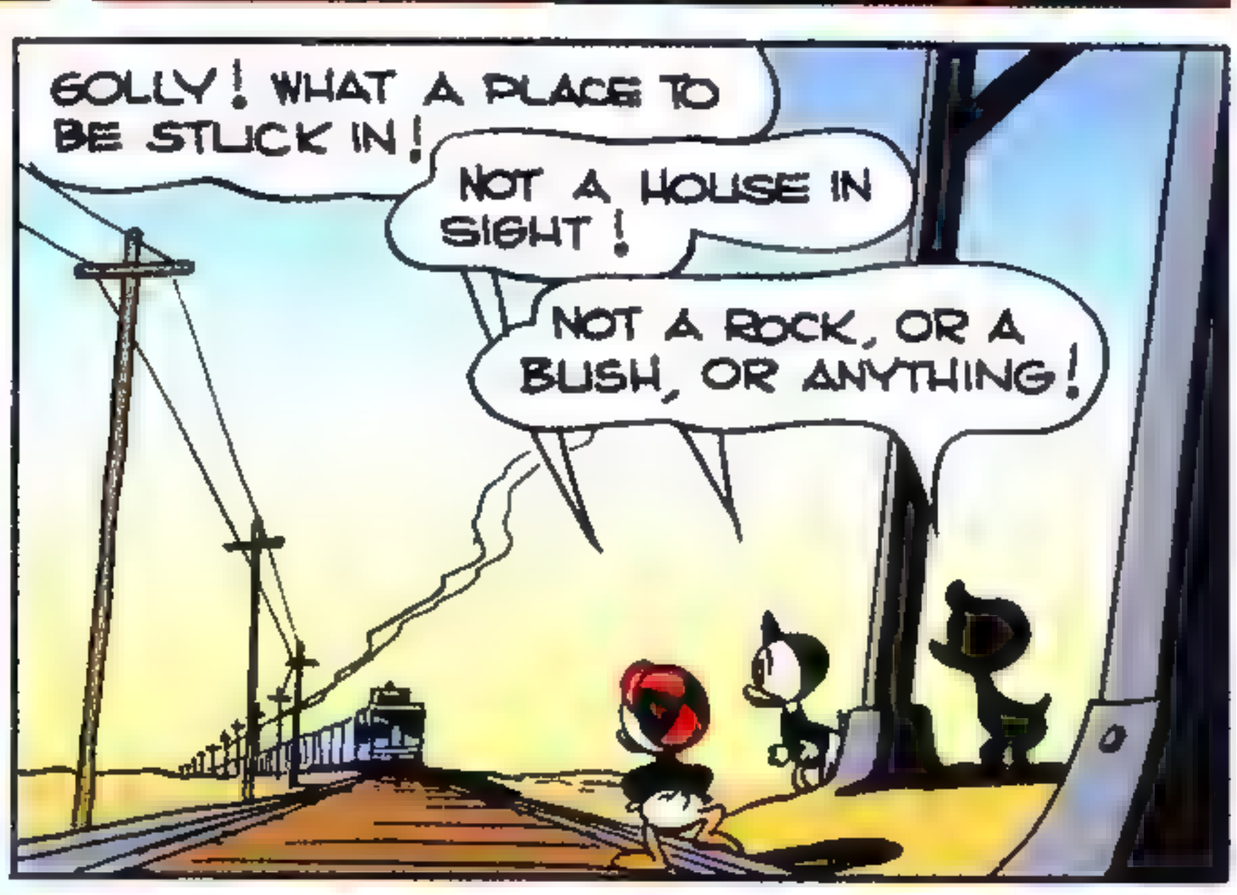

IF YOU LOOK REAL HARD, YOU CAN SEE THE SCHOOLHOUSE BACK THERE ON THE HILL!
WHO WANTS TO SEE IT?
NOT ME - I'VE GRADUATED!

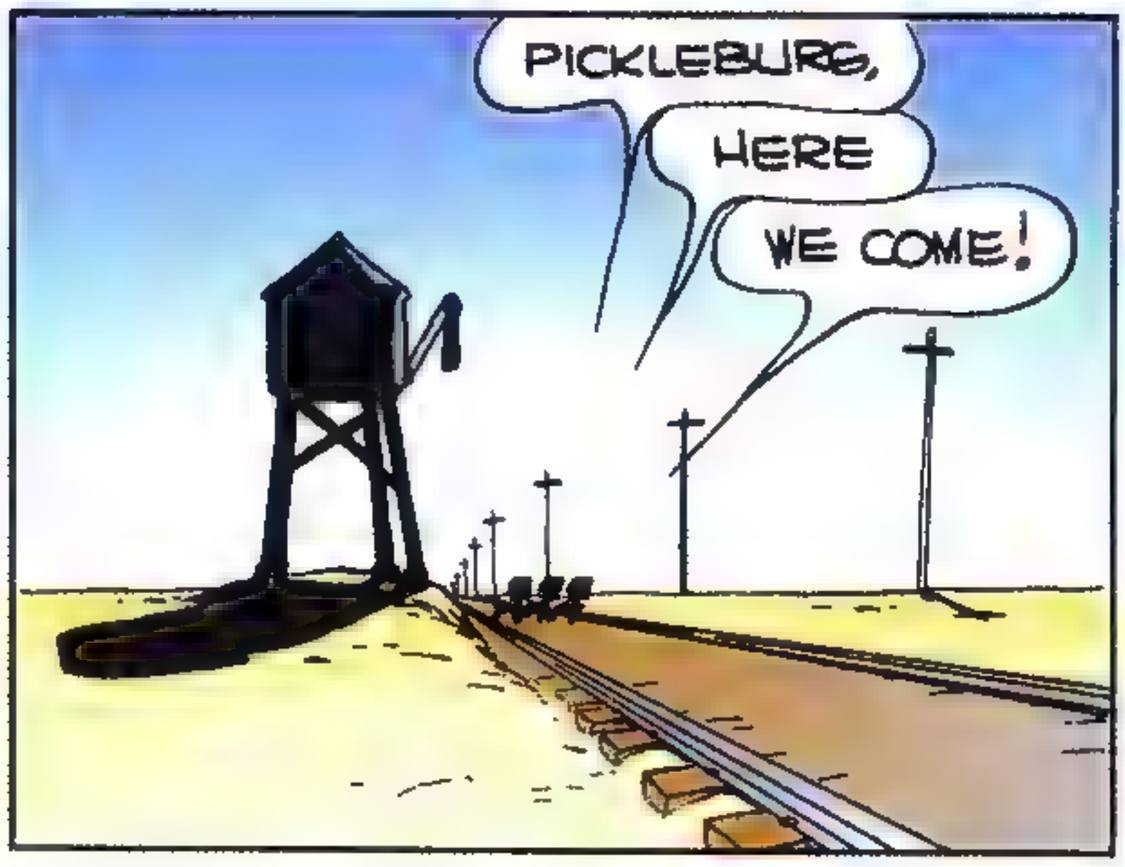
WE'LL CATCH THE MILK TRAIN BACK FROM PICKLEBURG!
WHY GO BACK AT ALL?
BEING HOBOES IS FUN! LET'S KEEP GOIN'!

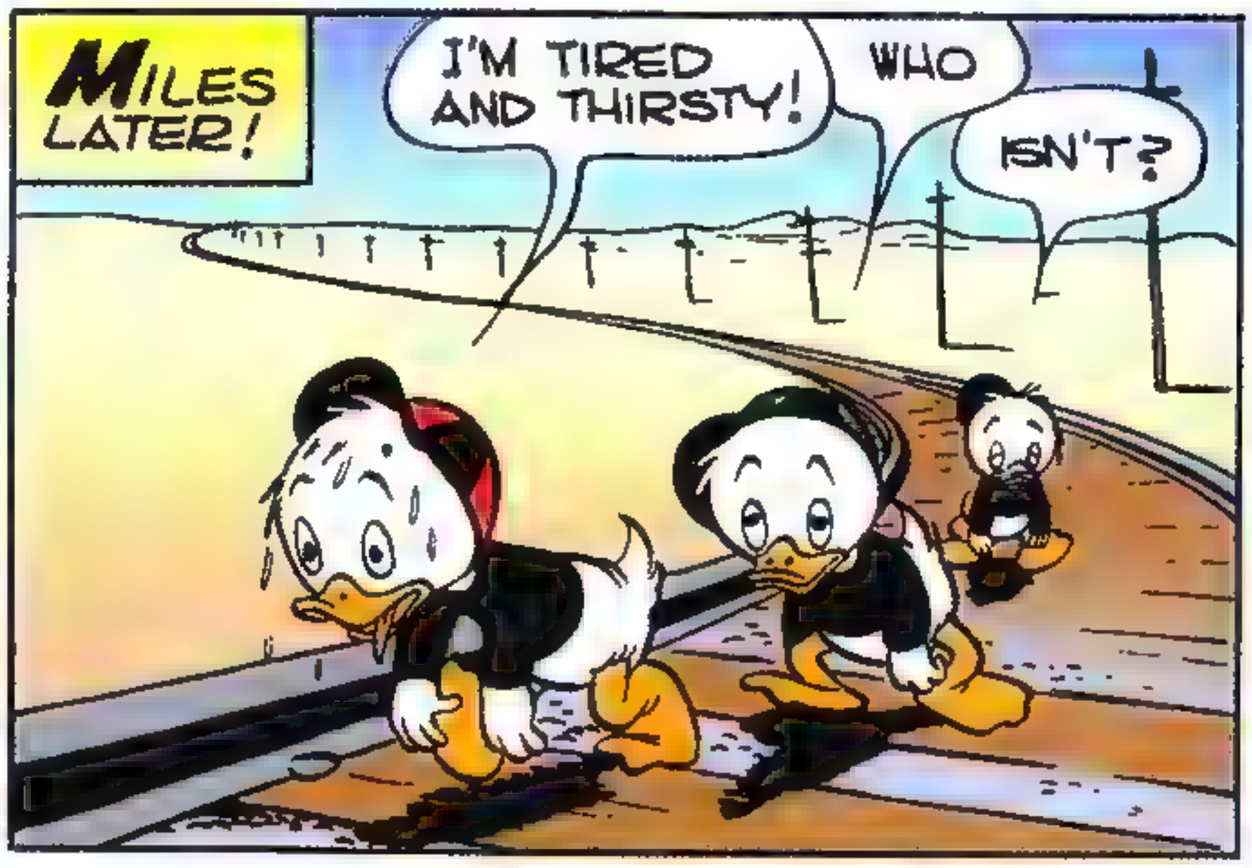
THE TRAIN IS GONNA STOP BY THAT WATER TANK!

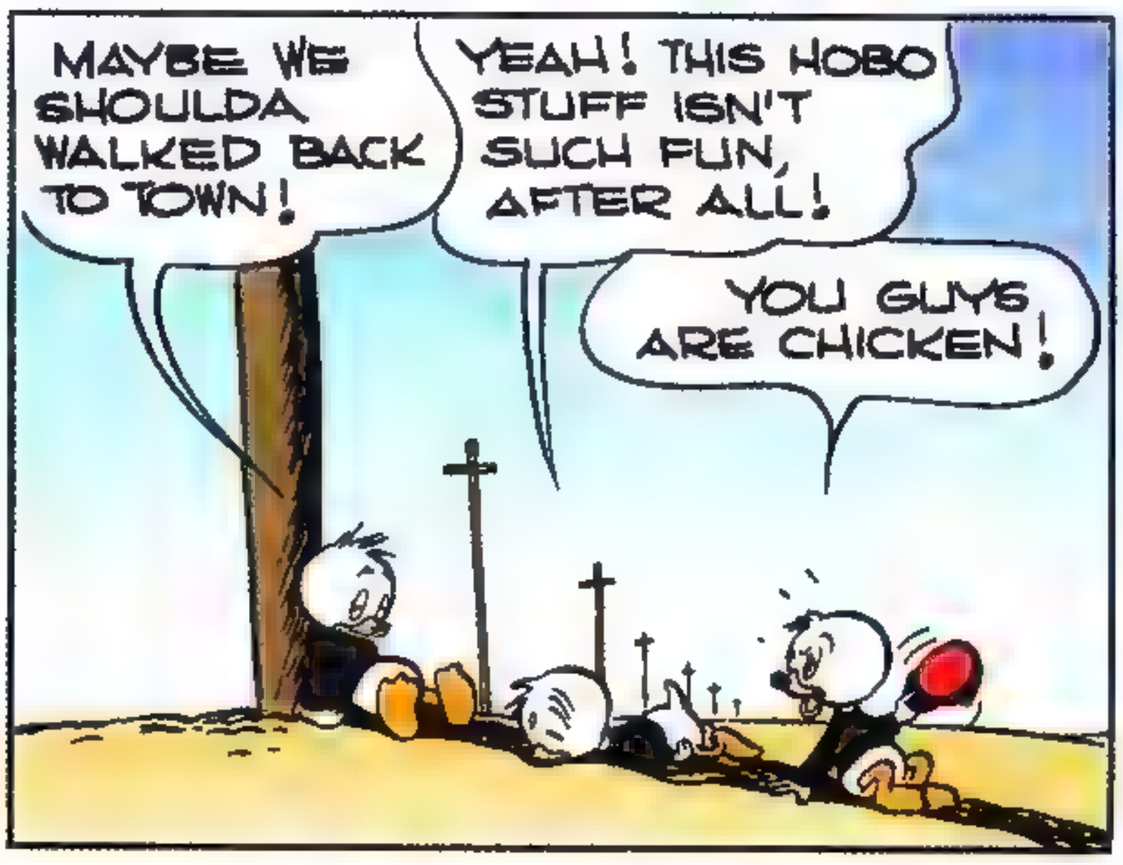
YEAH! AN' YOU KIDS IS GONNA STOP THERE, TOO! WE AIN'T HAULIN' BUMS ON DIS TRAIN!

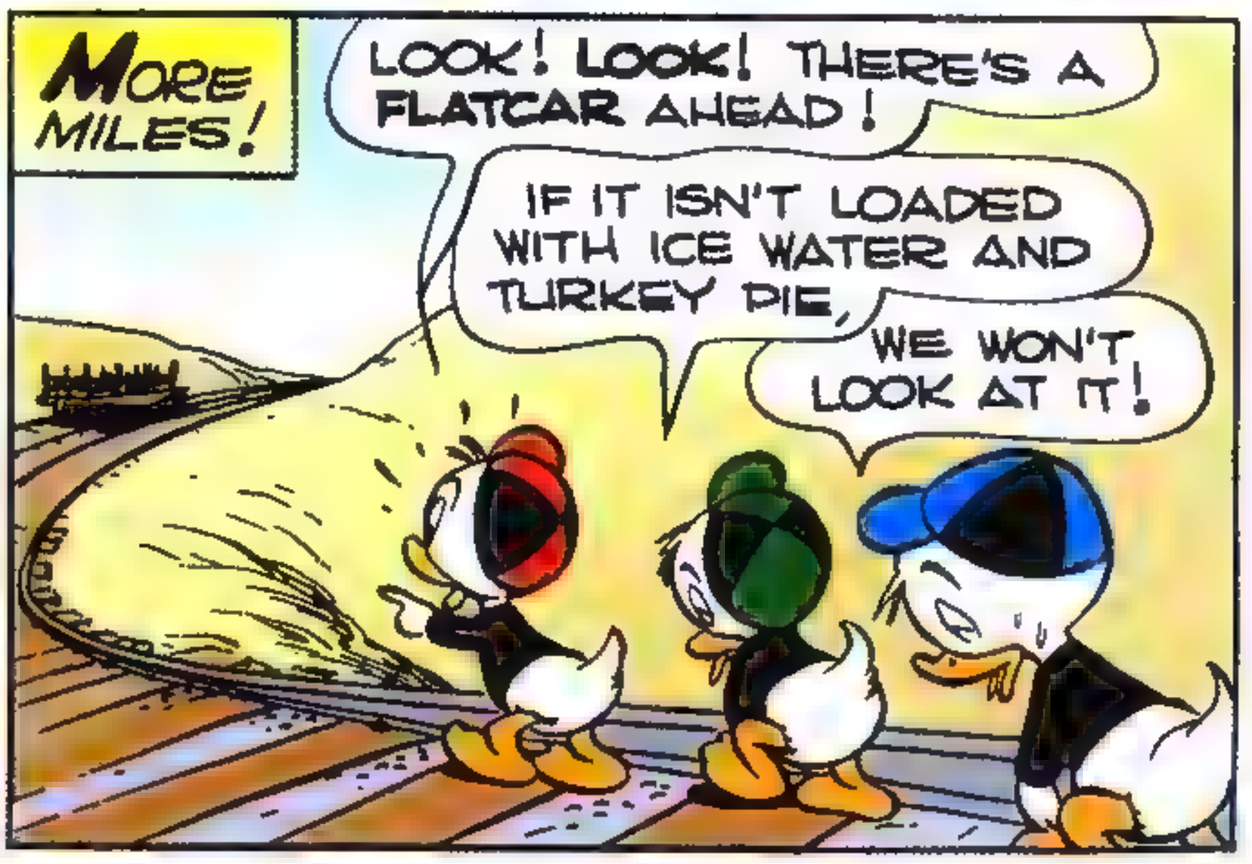
GIT OFFA HERE! HIT DE GROUND!
YESSIR!
YESSIR!


GOLLY! WHAT A PLACE TO BE STUCK IN!
NOT A HOUSE IN SIGHT!
NOT A ROCK, OR A BUSH, OR ANYTHING!


PICKLEBURG,
HERE
WE COME!


MILES LATER!
I'M TIRED AND THIRSTY!
WHO
ISN'T?


MAYBE WE SHOULDA WALKED BACK TO TOWN!
YEAH! THIS HOBO STUFF ISN'T SUCH FUN, AFTER ALL!
YOU GUYS ARE CHICKEN!


MORE MILES!
LOOK! LOOK! THERE'S A FLATCAR AHEAD!
IF IT ISN'T LOADED WITH ICE WATER AND TURKEY PIE,
WE WON'T LOOK AT IT!

THE CAR IS LOADED WITH SOMETHING!

HEAR THAT BAAAAING SOUND?

GOATS!

BAAA!

BAAA!

GOATS GIVE MILK, AND I CAN DRINK A CAPFUL! LET ME AT 'EM!

ONLY NANNY GOATS GIVE MILK!

ARE THESE NANNY GOATS?

NOPE! BILLY GOATS!

BONK!

REMEMBER THE BIG WATER COOLER IN THE HALLWAY AT SCHOOL?

AND THE HOT LUNCHES AT THE CAFETERIA?

AND THOSE COOL SALADS?... GROAN!

NIGHT IS COMING! IT'LL BE AWFUL COLD AN' WINDY OUT HERE IN THE OPEN!

WHAT'LL WE DO?

BAA! BAA!

WELL, THERE'S ONE WAY WE CAN KEEP WARM!

WHAT'S THAT?

PILE IN WITH THE GOATS!

GLEEP!

PLEEP!

ALL NIGHT DONALD SITS UP AND WAITS FOR HIS WAYWARD NEPHEWS!

THEY'RE AFRAID TO COME HOME! POOR LITTLE FELLERS! IF THEY'RE IN TROUBLE, IT'S ALL MY FAULT!

MORNING COMES ON FRAGRANT WINGS!

PHEW!

DID ANY OF YOUR TRAINMEN SEE THREE LITTLE BOYS ON THE TRACKS YESTERDAY?

TRAIN DISPATCHER

THE BRAKIE ON THE FIREBALL PUT 'EM OFF AT DEAD HOBO TANK! NOBODY'S SEEN 'EM SINCE!

HERE ARE THEIR TRACKS! THEY LEFT THE TANK TOWARD PICKLEBURG— AFOOT!

POOR LITTLE FELLERS!

I SEE 'EM! THEY'RE PLODDING ALONG, JUST ABOUT READY TO DROP!

I'LL GATHER THEM IN MY ARMS AND TELL THEM ALL IS FORGIVEN!

WAIT! WHY DON'T I GET **SMART**? HERE'S MY CHANCE TO TEACH THEM NEVER TO PLAY HOOKEY AGAIN!

THEY SEE THAT **HOUSE** AHEAD! I'LL **BEAT** THEM THERE AND PREPARE A LITTLE "HANDOUT" FOR THEM!

A HOUSE!

WATER AT LAST!

AND EATS!

MA'AM, I'LL GIVE YOU TEN DOLLARS TO LET ME USE YOUR KITCHEN FOR HALF AN HOUR!

COULD DO!

I'LL NEED SOME GIRL'S CLOTHES FOR A DISGUISE — AND SHOW ME WHERE YOU KEEP YOUR MEDICINE CHEST!

THE KIDS ARE DRINKING YOUR WELL DRY! YOU KEEP OUT OF SIGHT, MA'AM, AND DON'T FEEL SORRY FOR THESE HOOKEY PLAYERS — NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS!

FOOD! FOOD!

WILL YOU GIVE US SOMETHING TO EAT, MADAM?

PLEASE!

SHOO! SHOO! GO TO THE HORSE TROUGH AND BATHE! YOU SMELL LIKE GOATS!

BUT BE OF GOOD CHEER! WHILE YOU'RE DUNKING YOUR DIRT, I'LL FIX YOU SOME LOVELY SANDWICHES!

CASTOR OIL

QUI-NINE

LINI-MENT

BITTER ROOT

DID YOU HEAR THAT? SHE'S GOING TO FEED US!

SWELL SANDWICHES, TOO!

THIS HOBO LIFE MAY BE SOLID, AFTER ALL!

BUT—

WHAT ON EARTH?

AIR! AIR! LET ME HAVE AIR!

IF THAT'S THE KIND OF EATS HOBOES GET, LET ME GO HOME!

I'M POISONED! GAG! GASP!

I'LL SLIP INTO MY CAR NOW AND DRIVE UP LIKE I'VE JUST ARRIVED! THE KIDS'LL BE GLAD TO SEE ME!

PST! LOOK!

IT'S UNCA' DONALD!

WELL, WELL! SO HERE YOU ARE! HOW'D YOU LIKE TO GO TO SCHOOL THIS LOVELY MORNING?

WITH APPLES FOR TEACHER, UNCA' DONALD!

FIRST THEY GO HOME, AND THE OLD PLACE LOOKS MIGHTY GOOD TO THE BOLD, BAD HOBOES!

WE'LL NEVER PLAY HOOKEY AGAIN, UNCA' DONALD!

LATER— WHEN IT'S TIME FOR SCHOOL AGAIN!

HERE, UNCA' DONALD, IS A SPECIAL SANDWICH WE JUST NOW MADE FOR YOU!

IT'S TO SHOW YOU HOW MUCH WE LOVE YOU!

BLESS THEIR LITTLE HEARTS! I BET THIS SANDWICH'LL BE BETTER THAN THE ONES I MADE FOR THEM!

CASTOR OIL! HORSE LINIMENT! IPECAC! OIL OF SKUNKBREATH! SNAKE BITE SERUM!

WAIT'LL I GET MY HOOKS ON THOSE LOVING SCORPIONS— THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO GO TO SCHOOL FOR A WEEK!

THE END

Letters to the Editor

E-mail: wdcs@gemstonepub.com
Surface mail: WDC&S, PO Box 12001,
York, PA 17402

Letters selected for publication may be edited for length and/or content.

No letter about *Walt Disney's Comics and Stories* 688 would be complete without raving over the fine job done in restoring Floyd Gottfredson's "The Gleam," which has never looked better! But Noel Van Horn carved out a unique portion of the issue as well with his Mouse tale "Stir Crazy," a magnificent psychological study of both Mickey and Pete and their unique decades long hero-villain relationship.

Great as it was, I can't help wondering how Mickey could remain trapped in an abandoned barge for a week, given his previously demonstrated talent for escaping the inescapable. Therefore, I humbly submit:

THE TOP TEN REASONS MICKEY REMAINED IN A BARGE FOR AN ENTIRE WEEK!

10. Minnie thinks he's off on one of his silly adventures, and wishes he'd just settle down.

9. Goofy can't decide if this is the kind of story where he can become Super Goof or ineptly open a detective agency. He opts for the latter and is still removing the gum from his shoes.

8. Pluto can't track him by nose, due to a severe cold he got from falling into a frozen lake.

7. Chip and Dale retired from the "Rescue Rangers" and returned to their roots—chattering incessantly, annoying that mean ol' Donna Duck, and dumping Pluto into frozen lakes.

6. Dangerous Dan and Idjit the Midget planned to publicly take credit for Mickey's disappearance but failed because no one remembered who they were.

5. Leonard Maltin was finished interviewing Mickey for DVD special features and had moved on to Oswald the Lucky Rabbit.

4. Traditional fans of Floyd Gottfredson and Paul Murry failed to recognize this highly stylized version as Mickey.

3. Chief O'Hara assigned Detective Casey to the job.

2. Detective Casey fell into an adjoining barge, and remains there to this day.

...And the Number One Reason Mickey remained in the barge for an entire week:

1. After entertaining us for 80 years, he just needed a week off!

—Joe Torcivia
via email

In addition to my regular commentary, which will follow, I would like to contribute an open letter to Mark Small in response to his letter, published in the January issue of *Walt Disney's Comics and Stories* (number 688):

Dear Mark,

I read your letter with interest. In it, you state your dissatisfaction with the apparent monopoly Joe Torcivia and I have over the letters column. You further state that in the 1980s and 1990s, there were "a variety of letter writers, both male and female, and there would be no recurring names over a period."

You are absolutely correct in both assertions, and you are further right to be dissatisfied. Frankly, I am dissatisfied. Although I get a kick out of seeing my letters published (too big a kick, if you ask my wife; vanity of vanities, and all that), I very much enjoy seeing the letters of my fellow readers. I like to hear what they think of stories, what insights and observations they have. I want to know whether they prefer Gottfredson or Murry, more duck stories in *WDC&S* or less. More than anything, though, I simply want to know that they exist. These comics mean a lot to me; why else would I shell out more than I earn in an hour (I'm sorry to say) for a comic book? I'd like to know that they mean something like that to other people too. Sometimes I feel like Joe and I, along with the Gemstone staff, are the only people that even want the comics published. Although it is fun to see my letters consistently printed and my opinions and ideas thereby acknowledged, I would gladly trade what seems to be my near-monthly space for the letters of other contributors. So, write, dang it, write! You're on the spot since you wrote the letter, but that entreaty applies to everyone. Write! Write! Write! And if you do, thank you.

Now, as to my commentary itself, I confess to a bit of ecstasy when I opened the comic and saw William Van Horn's artwork leaping from the pages. I know the guy is somewhere in the realm of retirement, but his stuff is consistently among the best stories available. If he's still doing stories, let's print 'em! If he's not but he's unhappy with retirement, well, let's hope he sees this letter. And if he is in fact experiencing the bliss of retirement, I wish him the best but maybe every now and again, when he's got a bit of extra time on his hands, he could trot out the old pencils and papers and do us another classic like "Winks."

—Robert Hutchings
via email

Sorry to cut your comments short this month, Robert, but to reiterate: Write! Write! Write!

—John Clark

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